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Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-94-240 *14 December 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

'Urayqat Rejects Elections Without IDF Withdrawal

TA1212183294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian negotiator Sa'ib 'Urayqat, who drew up the plans for the Palestinian elections, has also rejected out of hand any proposal to hold elections without a full and permanent withdrawal of Israeli troops. 'Urayqat was speaking to reporter Mark Weiss:

[Begin recording] ['Urayqat] It seems to me that Mr. Rabin does not want to implement the rest of the agreement. I think the elections cannot take place without the completion of the first stage of redeployment, which involves the redeployment of the Israeli forces outside of present areas in the West Bank on a way-one ticket. Once they are out, they are out, because the whole purpose of the peace process is the gradual termination of the occupation. Now, we at one time hear preredeployment and temporary deployment and cosmetic redeployment. What we are talking about today is a Mr. Rabin who is hesitant, a Mr. Rabin who seems to me does not want to implement the rest of the agreement. I mean, this telling the soldiers to leave Bethlehem and Hebron and Nabulus for three days and be allowed to come back. If they are to come back three days later after the elections, would that not put an end to the whole peace process, because actually this will be giving legitimacy to the Israeli occupation?

[Weiss] There has been talk in some Israeli circles that because of the difficulties of the interim stage maybe it would be best to drop it and go straight forward and talk about the long-term solution, the final stage. What do you think about this idea?

['Urayqat] Listen, if we talk about the difficulty assessing redeployment, which has very clear terms of reference as far as outside of these areas in the first stage, okay, if they want to move directly towards the final status negotiations and put the settlements, refugees, Jerusalem, borders on the table, I mean, will that be easier? I mean, the settlements will continue to be the settlements, also they will be on the table. The Israeli Government has to make the choice. Do they want to continue this process or not, because I think the issue that will solve this process and the nucleus of the peace process, is national elections for the Palestinians, and elections cannot take place without the full redeployment of Israeli forces. Once and for all, in the first stage outside of these areas and then further locations later. [end recording]

Israelis, Palestinians To Hold Talks on Elections

Sha'th Arrives for Talks

NC1312214794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority [PA] arrived in Cairo this evening. He will chair the Palestinian delegation at the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations due to begin in Cairo tomorrow, Wednesday, which are expected to last for two days. Several important issues will be discussed, including the Palestinian elections.

Qassis, al-Shu'aybi Comment

NC1412064894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—A Palestinian delegation arrived in Cairo tonight to begin negotiations with the Israeli side on 14 December.

Delegation member Dr. Nabil Qassis said the two sides will discuss the agreement pertaining to elections, the redeployment of the Israeli forces, and the transfer of powers. The two sides will revise the military laws and orders concerning several postponed topics, Dr. Qassis added.

Continuing, Dr. Qassis said there can be no redeployment of forces or transfer of powers without elections. He said he expects the elections will be held under the two sides' supervision and UN auspices. The elections will be general, free, and direct in all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, Dr. Qassis said.

Dr. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, minister of sports and youth affairs in the Palestinian Authority and a member of the negotiating delegation, has stated that the Palestinian side has honored its commitments, adding: It would be in our interests for the negotiations to proceed in a practical manner.

Al-Shu'aybi said it seems the Israeli Government has already worked out a solution concerning Palestinian rights and their restoration, particularly with regard to the redeployment of the Israeli forces and holding elections. This step needs an Israeli political decision. But the debates conducted by the Israeli Government and recent statements by Israeli leaders do not imply that an Israeli political decision has been made to return these rights.

The Palestinian official said that current pretexts, particularly those pertaining to security, are simply a means to gain time. This harms the political process. The results will be damaging to the Palestinian side and to the Israeli side in the long run, al-Shu'aybi said. The Palestinian official said he hopes the Palestinian side's predictions are wrong.

Arab, Israeli Power Experts Conclude Meetings

JN1312155194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The two-day technical meetings held by experts on electricity links among Jordan, Egypt, Palestine, and Israel concluded in the city of al-'Aqabah today.

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During these meetings, the experts reviewed various technical alternatives in implementing this project.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic World League Statement on Russia, Chechnya

LD1112230494 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1932 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mecca, 11 Dec—The Islamic World League's general secretariat has expressed its regret about the Russian interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Chechnya and the continued Russian attempts to control Chechen territory and its people in order to annul the independence it declared from the Russian Federation.

In a statement it issued today, the League described the military intervention in the Republic of Chechnya, the bombardment of the territory of this republic which declared its independence in 1991, the besieging of its border by military forces, and preparations to occupy it and topple its existing government by force, as actions that contradict all international conventions. The statement says that these Russian measures are against the will of the majority of the sons of the Chechen people, who announced through their leaders their determination to repulse this aggression and preserve their full independence.

The League called for resolving the political problems between the government of Chechnya and the Russian Government peacefully, without resorting to force.

The League called on the governments of the Islamic world and justice-loving governments to recognize the independence of the Republic of Chechnya, whose people voted three years ago to be independent.

The Islamic World League expressed surprise at the occurrence of that unjust aggression on the day the world is marking International Human Rights Day.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 9 Dec

NC1412113994

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 9 December edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Fundamentalist Students Win Cairo University Elections

2. European Countries Said To Plan To Obliterate Bosnia

3. Writer Warns Egyptians of Zionist Penetration

4. Government Clamps Down on University Students

5. Conference on Solidarity With Bosnia Held

6. Writer Slams Russian, U.S. Policy on Bosnia

7. Scholar Rebuffs Writer's Attempts Against Islamic Revival

FUNDAMENTALIST STUDENTS WIN CAIRO UNIVERSITY ELECTIONS

A 200-word report by Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid on page 1 notes that the Islamic trend students won a landslide victory in the rerun of elections at Cairo University in the faculties of science, commerce, law, and arts. Earlier, Islamic candidates won another landslide victory in the colleges of physiotherapy, agriculture, engineering, dentistry, and veterinary medicine. He says the Islamic students toured the campus shouting Islamic slogans. The report notes that secular groups of students, at the instigation of the security forces, clashed with the Islamic students and pelted them with building blocks, injuring several of them.

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SAID TO PLAN TO OBLITERATE BOSNIA

In a 400-word report on pages 1 and 6, Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah says that European governments have begun preparations to obliterate Muslim Bosnia from Europe's political map. He says that after recognizing the Serbs' right to slice off and annex over half of Bosnia to greater Serbia, the British and French military commanders agreed to withdraw their forces from Bosnia. This, he suggests, virtually means opening the way for Serb gangs to commit "horrific massacres" against the unarmed Muslim population. He says that this "filthy" European plan comes at a time when pressure is increasing against the Muslim Bosnian forces fighting the Serbs and mercenary units from Russia, Israel, and five other European countries. The "lowliness and filth" of the European governments, NATO countries, and Russia were evident in the past two weeks when they all agreed to give the Serbs the land they wanted and to withdraw their forces to increase the Serb pressure on the Muslims, he contends. He adds: "It became evident that there is a real plan to uproot this Muslim state from Europe's Christian territory."

WRITER WARNS EGYPTIANS OF ZIONIST PENETRATION

In a 1,500-word report, "Beware, The Zionists Are Penetrating," on page 2, Mu'tazz al-Hadidi states that with the warming up of peace between Egypt and Israel recently, the Zionists have had more room to penetrate every sphere in Egypt. He argues that Israel penetrated Egypt politically to serve as a springboard to penetrate the Arab and Islamic worlds and to break the psychological barriers between the Zionist entity and the peoples of the Islamic and Arab worlds. He notes an increase in Israeli trade and tourism with Egypt. He says that Israeli youths visit Sinai while elderly Israelis visit Egyptian cities to "gather information." "It is espionage in the

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guise of tourism," he contends. The writer cites Islamic history professor Jamal 'Abd-al-Hadi as saying that the normalization of ties between Jews and Egyptians and the Arab and Islamic nation is aimed at removing the psychological barriers preventing coexistence and normal dealings. The "Jewish enemy" aims at domesticating the Arab and Islamic worlds to accept it and its right to live in peace in the holy land, he claims, adding that, as he calls it, the "Jewish enemy" wants the Muslims to forget Palestine and the Islamic task to liberate it. The "Zionist enemy," he believes, also aims to tame the Islamic world and spread non-Islamic traditions and coax the Islamic world to let the Jews and Americans control them and serve their plans.

GOVERNMENT CLAMPS DOWN ON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

In a 2,200-word report on page 3, Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid elaborates on what he perceives to be the government's increasing restriction of students' activities, freedom of expression, and arrest of Islamic activists. He cites several students and professors on the provocation and repression of students. Hisham Nabih, head of the Cairo University Students Union, says what is happening inside the university is "a slaughter of democracy," and that striking off the names of candidates in student elections and the arrest campaign is a form of custodianship that runs counter to law and the Constitution. He says: When we ask the university president about the reason for an arrest, he answers that his powers do not allow him to intervene. Another student says that no free students' activity is allowed, particularly if it is Islamic, and several students known for their Islamic leanings had their homes raided at midnight and were jailed. Another student said the specter is gloomy because faculty deans work for the security agencies. He maintains that these deans repeatedly state that they could not refuse orders, otherwise they would lose their jobs. A political science student says that the conflict between the university administration and the students is part of a larger conflict. He argues that the students express the views of society. So when they clash with the authorities this means that society rejects these authorities. He says: This exposes the illusion of the slogan of democracy that the government raises.

Speaking in the same vein, several professors say that they "and the students are in the same boat." Dr. Badr-al-Din Ghazi, head of the university teaching staff club, criticizes the slogan that "the university is solely for education," saying that the students must be taught the principles of patriotism and creed and must have the freedom to express their views, asking: How can we teach them democracy when they are denied the opportunity to practice it? Dr. Ahmad al-Mahdi, professor of curricula and teaching methodology at the University of Alexandria, says the ruling regime wants to "run all the affairs of society like police," which exposes a contradiction between words and deeds. While we hear top officials claim to make efforts to deepen democracy, they make greater efforts to restrict youths' freedom. He maintains that what is happening to the students will have a bad impact on our political life. He adds: The state seems to want to bring up generations of youths who are powerless, lack the ability to think, and are devoid of leadership traits. The secretary general of the Egyptian Human Rights Organization says the suppression of students and the political and democratic forces will "breed extremism and clandestine activities."

CONFERENCE ON SOLIDARITY WITH BOSNIA HELD

A 2,000-word account on page 4 by Khalid Yunis notes that the Egyptian Committee in Support of the People of Bosnia-Herzegovina held a massive conference at the Engineers Association Hall on 5 December. A large number of party leaders and representatives and heads of various associations, along with hundreds of Islamic youths, attended. Addressing the conference, Chairman of the committee Abu al-'Ula Madi said that the Bosnian issue exposes the West's slogan about freedom and justice and the defeatism of the so-called UN organizations, which are in fact American. 'Isam al-'Aryan, assistant secretary general of the doctors association, says that the steadfastness of the Bosnian Muslims will "shatter the Western dream of making Islam a new enemy after the collapse of the Communist Camp." The Bosnian charge d'affairs likens what is happening to the Bosnian people to what happened to the Palestinians in Sabra and Shatila camps in Beirut.

Addressing the conference, the eminent Islamic scholar Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali says: "Inasmuch as the Bosnian issue exposes the Europeans' hypocrisy, it exposes the Islamic World and its weaknesses and the ignorance and treason permeating its leaders." He says: "I am worried about Islam not only in Bosnia but in the whole world." He says that the Muslims are being humiliated but they are doing nothing.

Mustafa Mashhur, Islamic writer and deputy leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, says that the conflict between Muslims and their enemies throughout history has been one between right and wrong. He stresses that the tragedy of the Bosnians is the tragedy of the age. He maintains that the Serbs are doing exactly the same as the Jews did in Palestine. He says that both the Jews and Serbs displaced Muslims from their land. Europe enabled the Jews to take over Palestine and is now trying to do the same in Bosnia. He stresses that the Muslims will wake up from their slumber and confront the schemes of the enemies of Islam.

WRITER SLAMS RUSSIAN, U.S. POLICY ON BOSNIA

In a 600-word article on page 8, Tal'at Rumayh assails the Russian policy on Bosnia, its support for the Serb crimes, and the use of the veto at the Security Council. He notes that Russia did not use the veto against the Western blockade of Iraq or Libya. He argues that the

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Arabs and Muslims pay the price for the new Russian policy. Turning to the U.S. policy, he says that U.S. foreign policy has consistently shown that the United States was the first country to "strangle, blockade, and starve the Arabs." It was behind the most serious acts of aggression against the Arabs, he claims, and adds that it has consistently sided with Israel against Arabs and Muslims. He says the events in Bosnia prove that the United States condoned the massacres against the Bosnian Muslims. He notes the U.S. statement approving the Serbs' demand for confederation with greater Serbia. He argues that the weakness of the Arabs and Muslims is to blame for the Bosnian problem and before it the Palestinian issue and the blockade of Iraq, Libya, and Sudan.

SCHOLAR REBUFFS WRITER'S ATTEMPTS AGAINST ISLAMIC REVIVAL

In a 2,000-word article on page 9, Islamic writer Dr. Muhammad 'Imarah recounts the attempts by writer Muhammad Sa'id al-'Ashmawi to confront the Islamic revival and canonization of the Islamic shar'iah since the mid 1970's. He notes that this writer provokes controversy not only with the thinkers of the Islamic revival but also with the symbols of the Islamic establishments, notably al-Azhar ulema. He says that since the 1950's al-'Ashmawi has been noted as a writer on existentialism but that since the mid 1970's—when the Islamic awakening began to grow—he has devoted his writings to Islamic topics. He notes that al-'Ashmawi said that he rejected this awakening and would devote his writing to confronting it. The writer notes that several volumes that were written by religious establishments and judicial and intellectual scholars in the 1970's to canonize the Islamic shar'iah were shelved as a result of the Camp David accords. Dr. 'Imarah notes that al-'Ashmawi sought to confront the Islamic revival and the phenomenon of political Islam at the same time as the Western plan involving the church and political and intellectual circles sought to confront the "danger" of the Islamic revival. He notes that conferences were held in several U.S. states toward this goal. He says that the same reasons that provoked the hostile Western circles—the mounting influence of the political Islamic movements and canonization of the shar'iah—provoke al-'Ashmawi. The writer notes that although the Western circles describe al-'Ashmawi as a professor of the principles of Islam and shari'ah, no Islamic university has allowed him to lecture in it. Only Western and Christian universities promote his ideas. He maintains that al-'Ashmawi is the mentor of a school opposed to the revival of Islam and he councils reason, objectivity, and reliance on the firm principles of Islam to confront him.

Palestinian Affairs

Sha'th on Cairo Talks, Elections, Redeployment

JN1412124394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1040 GMT 14 Dec 94

[Report by Sa'id Mu'addi; from the "With the Midday Events" program—italicized passages recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mu'addi] The Israeli and Palestinian sides have decided to resume talks in Cairo today within the framework of a small committee headed by Uri Savir, the director general of the Foreign Ministry, and Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian Authority member. This round of talks is being conducted along the lines of the Oslo talks with the aim of salvaging the Israeli-Palestinian agreement and pressing ahead with the implementation of the next stage of the joint Declaration of Principles [DOP].

In this round, which will last for two days, the two delegations will discuss the concept of the interim stage in general in order to draft a future action strategy within the framework of the subcommittees.

On today's round of talks, Dr. Nabil Sha'th says the following:

[Sha'th] *As a matter of fact we had earlier formed a major delegation, which we called the concept committee, and a subcommittee on elections, which has started its work, called the elections committee. In today's session we are concentrating on the concept committee. However, through this committee we will also discuss the issue of elections. In other words, we want to focus this week on the integrated concept of the negotiating process in the interim stage. Talks will include elections, Israeli withdrawal and redeployment, the transfer of powers, and the revision of laws within a unified framework, because these issues are very interrelated. Elections cannot be conducted without the redeployment of troops and the troops cannot be redeployed without the transfer of powers. These issues are interdependent. We must find a correct approach to these issues based on the DOP.*

[Mu'addi] Press reports today said that Israel could ask the Palestinian side to postpone elections by one year so that it can build roads in the West Bank as part of the security arrangements Israel will adopt after the redeployment of its troops and their withdrawal from the populated areas. On this issue, Dr. Nabil Sha'th says:

[Sha'th] *There is an exaggerated fear on the part of the Israelis regarding the issue of security and the redeployment of troops. This concept is being exaggerated. Those who suggest these things believe that this issue will be solved only with great difficulty and after a long period of time. I would like to mention that this was said also when we first entered Gaza. There was fear concerning the joint patrols and other security measures on which we agreed and which were implemented when we entered Gaza. We are aware of the Israeli security concerns and of our responsibility in dealing with this issue. However, I do not believe that this issue should wait for many months and years. We must find integrated solutions that would allow us to implement the agreement in the shortest period of time and with the maximum effective practical measures.*

[Mu'addi] Political sources in Jerusalem said that the chairman of the Palestinian Authority is ready to reconsider the possibility of maintaining limited and token

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[Israeli] Defense Forces troops in the West Bank cities when the elections are held in the territories. Dr. Nabil Sha'th rules out this possibility and says:

[Sha'th] *There are various Israeli plans in this regard and there are Palestinian responses to them. I do not want to go into details, but I say that President 'Arafat has clearly stated that elections cannot be held in the presence of Israeli troops, because the aim of the entire process, this peace process, is trading land for peace. Trading land for peace means withdrawal and redeployment in stages. Elections should be conducted after the completion of the first stage of redeployment; that is, after leaving the cities, villages, and population centers. We need to put all these issues on the table and find solutions that would enable us to realize this. I do not say that we have reached a deadlock. The road is still open for talks. Therefore, we have intensified talks in Norway, Sweden, and here in Cairo. Moreover, we are making preparations to hold summit meetings between President 'Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin once the prime minister returns from Japan.*

PLO's Hurani on Palestinians' 'Polarization'

MM1412110894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Dec 94 p5

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member 'Abdallah Hurani by Husayn Hijazi in Gaza; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hijazi] A point made against you is that, as PLO Executive Committee member, you took advantage of the Oslo agreement results and entered Gaza but you did not participate in the committee's meeting called by 'Arafat.

[Hurani] We are all for the reactivation of the Executive Committee and the PLO. As regards my position and the confusion regarding my nonparticipation in its recent meeting, I wish to explain that the brothers who were absent from the meeting had two reasons for not attending. Some of them objected to Gaza being the venue of the meeting, and others objected to the way the invitation was issued and the purpose of the meeting. For me, the venue, that is Gaza, was not the problem or the cause of the objection because what mattered as far as the venue was concerned was that two conditions should be fulfilled: freedom of access and freedom of opinion. Once these two conditions are met, the venue ceases to be a problem. It was the second cause which decided my position. An Executive Committee meeting is not just a matter of whim or an idea or a bid for media headlines. The Executive Committee meeting, after the political, security, and economic crisis we had, and coming after a long period of no meetings, should have been for the purpose of making a real and comprehensive review of the entire political line since Oslo with the aim of finding a way out of the Palestinian crisis. That should have been made clear in the invitation itself and in serious preparations for the meeting, but, regrettably, that was not the case. Hence the boycott. Many did not even receive the invitation in its haphazard form.

[Hijazi] There is disagreement about the way the Executive Committee meeting was held, and the PLO appears to be isolated or unable to play its part. Are we seeing the beginning of its gradual demise?

[Hurani] The PLO institutions in general were not, even in the past and long before Oslo, in a position to play a major part. Long before the Oslo agreement, there was a systematic process aimed at weakening the role of the PLO. That was what made the Oslo agreement possible. Had the situation been different, we might have gotten a better agreement. The situation is as follows: The PLO is the Palestinian liberation movement and, as such, it cannot stop its work before the fulfillment of the Palestinian people's liberation objectives. None of these objectives has been fulfilled yet. All that has happened is that the Palestinians have set up an authority in some areas. It seems to me that it would be a most dangerous and negative consequence for the Palestinian aims and strategy if the Authority were to replace the PLO. I am sorry to say that what is happening now is exactly that, an attempt to do away with the PLO and its role so that the Authority would take its place. The problem is that that approach fails to see that the PLO is still the only party capable of representing the Palestinians as a whole at home and abroad and that the National Authority "cannot" fulfill that historic mission.

[Hijazi] How do you view the current struggle for power in the autonomy areas?

[Hurani] The Authority and the opposition forces must find a formula that would lead them to a program of national harmony not conflict. That can be achieved if each party understands its limits and its role. I know that the Authority cannot abrogate the Oslo agreement. Not even the Israeli Government can do that. That should not, therefore, be an opposition condition for dialogue with the Authority. By the same token, the Authority should realize that it cannot make it a condition that the opposition should accept the Oslo agreement as the basis for dialogue with it. If both sides accept this fact, and they must accept it, then it would not be difficult to find a common language for dialogue. Let me add here that the Authority should not delude itself into thinking that negotiations alone can end the occupation, dismantle the settlements, and regain all rights. It must not believe or think that the task of ending the occupation is exclusively the Authority's task. It is the task of all the Palestinian people and all their forces.

[Hijazi] What is the way out of the current state of polarization?

[Hurani] I believe that the polarization we are witnessing does not reflect the real strength and popularity of each party. Several factors have contributed to the state of affairs we now see but what is certain is that there is a

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general Palestinian sense of dissatisfaction, politically, economically, and at the level of resisting the occupation.

Perhaps we now need a third party to emerge, representing the interests of a large majority of our people who do not have an organizational or political framework and who at the same time are not happy about what is happening. Therfore, if some patriotic figures and democratic forces succeed in projecting themselves reasonably and objectively on the basis of continuing resistance against the occupation on the one hand and of democratically developing Palestinian civilian society on the other, it would be possible to find a formula for a way out of this polarization.

[Hijazi] Are you worried about the phenomenon of the rising tide of Hamas?

[Hurani] I cannot exclude Hamas from the national ranks. Hamas' success in portraying itself as Israel's enemy is what is giving it this popularity. Its popularity emanates from the fact that it is the party which can demonstrate eagerness to fight Israel and maintain the resistance against occupation.

[Hijazi] So you do not see the strength of Hamas as being part of a sweeping Islamic wave in the region, but see it as an emerging force capable of resisting Israel?

[Hurani] Not quite, because you cannot ignore the general situation in the region and its effect on the Palestinian situation. But the Palestinian situation has its own special characteristics in the sense that Hamas cannot replace the Palestinian forces or claim credit for the record of these forces. That is why I now see a need for the emergence of the third trend I mentioned. It would restore the balance and compensate for what the nationalist forces in the opposition and the Authority have lost.

PFLP on Participation in PA Administration Jobs

JN1312192594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Dec 94

[Interview with Hasan 'Abd-al-Jawwad, "a leading official of the PFLP in the occupied territory," by Basim Abu-Sumayyah; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-Jawwad] We in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] are working to establish the new formula of the Democratic National Action Front [DNAF] [jabhat al-'amal al-watani al-dimuqrati], which we announced during the front's 27th anniversary celebration through the front's leaders in the occupied territory. We were forced to adopt this formula. Clearly, there have been changes that swept away everything that had been previously established in the Palestinian and Arab arenas. This has affected the economic, social, political, and cultural aspects of the Palestinian people. This is because of the terms of the [Oslo] agreement. The Palestinian people stand to lose the most in terms of their national rights and national aims for liberation.

Therefore, two trends have emerged in the PFLP and its programs and duties. The first concerns our continuation as a national liberation movement, given that our aims for freedom and independence have not yet been realized. This requires a long struggle. The second concerns the new circumstances in the civilian and social fields from various angles.

[Abu-Sumayyah] How does the so-called DNAF deal with the Palestinian Authority [PA] cadres and departments?

['Abd-al-Jawwad] We have had a clear stand since June 1994 concerning the legitimacy of dealing with the administrative structure below the political level in all departments that have been established since Oslo.

[Abu-Sumayyah] What do you mean by the phrase "below the political level?"

['Abd-al-Jawwad] It means that we will not participate in any of the joint Palestinian-Israeli political moves. We mean by this the job structure in the ministries.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Does this mean that you will participate in the ministries below the ministerial level, that is, away from political decisionmaking?

['Abd-al-Jawwad] Away from political decisionmaking in the various ministries.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Would you be prepared to participate at the level of under secretary or head of a department?

['Abu-al-Jawwad] Below this.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Ordinary jobs.

['Abd-al-Jawwad] Yes, ordinary jobs.

PFLP on 'Democratic National Action Front'

JN1312200494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has announced a new formula [sighah jadidah] by the name of the Democratic National Action Front [DNAF]. The Voice of Palestine telephoned Hasan 'Abd-al-Jawwad, a Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP, official in the Bethlehem area to discuss this new formula.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Ibrahim Milhim] Good evening Hasan.

['Abd-al-Jawwad] Good evening.

[Milhim] Is this a new PFLP party?

['Abd-al-Jawwad] This is not a new PFLP party. It is an open political, popular formula, an extension of the PFLP. We address the fronts' supporters, the democrats,

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and independents. It has been necessitated by the new circumstances. [passage omitted]

[Milhim] Some PFLP members oppose this formula.

['Abd-al-Jawwad] In fact this formula was discussed by various central bodies. We are preparing for completing it and announcing it fully as soon as possible.

[Milhim] Will you participate in the legislative elections?

['Abd-al-Jawwad] We consider that the Oslo agreement provisions did not approve of the elections. What is being proposed is a an autonomous council. We are opposed to participation in this autonomous council. The conditions of participation are not available because the provisions are counter to our convictions and against the Palestinian people's aims and rights.

[Milhim] But you will participate in the municipal councils.

['Abd-al-Jawwad] For us, elections are a strategic aim that is part of the PFLP policy. We support municipal elections and support participation in all popular organizations and unions and their extensions on both the vertical and horizontal levels. We have no reservations in this regard. [passage omitted]

[Milhim] Is the PFLP leadership abroad in the picture concerning the new formula?

['Abd-al-Jawwad] Yes, they are in the picture, at home and abroad.

[Milhim] This formula is not an alternative to the front?

['Abd-al-Jawwad] It is not an alternative but it has been imposed by Arab, international, and local circumstances. We consider this to be a contribution to preserving our people's aims and national rights and their sovereignty and independence.

[Milhim] Thank you. [end recording]

PFLP-GC Reports Problem on Border 'Exaggerated'

JN1312201294 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An al-Quds Radio correspondent in Damascus has said that the leadership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has contacted the brothers in the leadership of the People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the subject of the news reports of Palestinian citizens stuck outside Libyan territory.

A responsible source in the PFLP-GC said the brothers in the Libyan leadership have emphasized that they tackled this subject in the manner it deserves, but the Western news agencies have exaggerated the issue in a bid to tarnish the Libyan positions on the Palestine question, especially since the 1 September revolution and its leadership, led by brother Colonel Mu'ammar al—Qadhdhafi, has been and is still on the forefront of those who support the Palestinian revolution, the heroic intifadah, and all that is related to the Palestine question.

The responsible PFLP-GC source emphasized that the political leadership in the Jamahiriya informed the front's leadership that the procedures concerning the entry of the Palestinian citizens were taken last night and that the reports of the international news agencies, and the Western news agencies in particular, are baseless and their objective is clear, which is to tarnish the Jamahiriya's position and the 1 September revolution.

PFLP Spokesman on 'Boycotting' Authority

JN1312210094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Dec 94

[Interview with Mahir Tahir, official spokesman and PFLP Political Bureau member, by Salah Salamah; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Tahir] I would like to say that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] position on the Oslo-Washington agreement is clear. It has announced its full opposition to this agreement and its devastating results in the Palestinian and Arab arenas. This position has not changed and will not change. This means that there is nothing new in the political position of the PFLP.

[Salamah] In light of this position you boycotted the Palestinian National Authority?

[Al-Tahir] Yes, we are boycotting the authority; we do not deal with it and will not deal with it. We consider it to be an instrument employed to serve the Zionist occupation.

[Salamah] Therefore, you will not participate in its structural institutions and executive establishments?

[Al-Tahir] There is no agreement of any sort with this authority. We will work to confront, besiege, and abort the Gaza- Jericho agreement because it does not represent a just solution to the Palestine question. All forms of struggle should continue until the whole question of Palestine and its file are moved to the United Nations to find a just solution on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy. Hence, we believe that the Gaza-Jericho agreement constitutes a bridgehead for Zionism to enter into the Arab homeland. This agreement will have such dangerous results and devastating consequences that we should confront it as a Palestinian people, as a Palestinian national liberation movement, and also as an Arab national Liberation movement.

[Salamah] Dr. Mahir al-Tahir, Mr. Hasan 'Abd-al-Jawwad [a leading PFLP official in the occupied territories] today criticized the Palestinian opposition's action and described the results of the action and slogans of this opposition as below the required standard. He

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said that he is working with others to establish a new formula of a Democratic National Action Front. Are you part of this effort?

[Al-Tahir] We are working and making all efforts to set up a national Palestinian front to reconstruct the PLO on democratic and nationalist principles. This front is committed to the Palestinian National Charter, the program and resolutions of the Palestine National Council sessions—the program of the return and self- determination and the setting up of the independent Palestinian state. This front should confront the Oslo-Washington agreement and find a new way to ensure a just solution to the Palestine question, based on full withdrawal from the Palestinian territories and the creation of the state whose capital is Jerusalem. We have struggled and we continue to struggle in order to establish this national front that includes all national, Islamic, and democratic forces and nationalist personalities inside and outside the occupied territories in order to continue the Palestinian national struggle. However, this front will not deal with the authority and will not have any link with the Oslo agreement and its results.

[Salamah] Thank You Dr. Mahir al-Tahir.

Hamas: 'Arafat Remarks Could Spell End to Dialogue

MM1312151194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Dec 94 p5

[Unattributed report: "Hamas: 'Arafat's Attack on the Movement in Oslo Was a Violation of the Partial Agreement and Dialogue Terms"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) yesterday expressed resentment against the statements made by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Oslo the day before yesterday in which he spoke of an Israeli role in sponsoring the movement and facilitating the delivery of arms to it in the occupied West Bank, and also said that Hamas received aid from some Arab and Islamic states as well as some groups in the United States.

In a statement, of which AL-HAYAH received a copy, Hamas said that "such statements are a flagrant violation of the partial agreement reached by the mediation committee after the Gaza massacre providing for a cessation of the defamation and insults campaigns, particularly as they come from the head of the autonomy authority." It wondered about "the authority's real position and the extent of its commitment to the reconciliation agreements, endeavors to calm the situation, and the popular mediation efforts to prevent a repetition of what happened."

The statement added that "such statements, which are full of lies, fabrications, and empty accusations, could undermine every chance of making any significant progress in the dialogue between the authority and Hamas and could expose the entire dialogue to a setback or even stop it altogether, which seems to be what 'Arafat wants in his attempt to absolve his authority of responsibility for that sad Friday massacre."

FIDA Members Urge PA Representatives To Resign

MM1312121394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Dec 94 p5

[Unattributed report: "Four FIDA Founders Call for Resignation from Palestinian Authority"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Four founders of the [Palestinian Democratic Union Party] FIDA have criticized the Palestinian National Authority and its positions and policies on the building of national institutions, management of the negotiations with Israel, organization of Palestinian-Arab relations, activation of PLO institutions, and construction of the national economy.

In an internal memorandum, FIDA Executive Bureau Members Salih Ra'fat, Mamduh Nawfal, Jamil Hilal, and 'A'ishah 'Awdah urged the FIDA representatives in the Palestinian Authority [PA], namely Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, "to resign immediately and openly criticize the PA and its practices from the time it was formed up to the Gaza massacre, in order to safeguard FIDA's role as part of the Palestinian democratic movement."

The memorandum was discussed by FIDA's first line of leadership and won the support of the party's majority, but the final decision regarding the resignation of the two ministers and the withdrawal from the PA was deferred until later to give the FIDA leadership time to hold the necessary contacts. But it was agreed during the meeting that the FIDA ministers would begin to express their views openly on the PA's policies.

The memorandum, which was submitted to the party's general secretariat, condemned "the bloody Gaza incidents which exposed the magnitude of the dangers threatening the Palestinian national plan and the Palestinian national identity." It warned against the "threat of civil war if the conscientious Palestinian national forces do not intervene" to stop it.

It declared that "opening fire on the public should be condemned under any circumstance and should not be justified, as one of the FIDA statements did in a unique expression of authoritarian values alien to the party's program." It added: "It is indeed painful and shameful that some members of FIDA's leadership who played a pioneering part in formulating a realistic, patriotic, democratic, and responsible policy, in diagnosing the realities and crisis of the Palestinian national movement, and in proposing ideas for raising the level of the party's role in the light of the Palestinian, Arab, and international changes and developments in recent years, have tended to derail it from its line as a party with progressive and

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democratic programs, policies, and structures to a completely different line in form and substance. We believe that the spread and consolidation of opportunism in the ranks of its first line of leadership have been a main cause of this." The memorandum called for "an internal dialogue to expose all forms of opportunism."

It continued: "FIDA's leadership has placed itself and the party in a very serious dilemma. On the one hand it is part of the PA and, as such, bears part of the responsibility for the PA's minor and major mistakes and sins; on the other hand it is fully incapable of proposing initiatives regarding the various developments and, therefore, unable to respond to the Palestinian masses and the other political forces as a leadership with its own national, democratic, and independent policy."

In their memorandum, the four members suggested to the party's representatives that they should "immediately announce their resignation, criticize the PA's policies, and propose a responsible national democratic alternative that stems from FIDA's program, which has currently been shelved for opportunistic and personal considerations which we condemn. It also urged the FIDA leadership to hold meetings with all the Palestinian democratic and secular forces and figures to draft a program that would express and mould the position of the national democratic secular trend."

Factions Pledge To Ask Permission for Rallies

JN1312191794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Nationalist and Islamic forces issued a press statement today that includes all the points in the national draft agreement signed in Jericho yesterday with the aim of laying down a joint foundation in a manner that serves the national interest.

The statement was signed by representatives of the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah; the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas; the Palestinian People's Party; the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front; and FIDA [the Palestinian Democratic Union]. The statement calls for the right of all factions—collectively and individually—to stage all kinds of rallies to express their views, and their right to call to account all those who attack their liberties.

All the forces pledged to seek permission in advance from the Palestinian National Authority to stage any marches or rallies to express their opinions. They also pledged to preserve order, not to encroach on private or public property, and not to carry weapons or open fire. Those who do so will be responsible before law.

All the national forces also pledged to refrain from writing slogans on walls that conflict with the national constants.

Paper on Impossibility of Political Conciliation

TA1312183094 Gaza AL-ISTIQLAL in Arabic 9 Dec 94 p 2

[Editorial: "The Required Dialogue, the Possible Dialogue"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The question of a dialogue between the self—rule authority and the opposition surfaced again after the black Friday massacre in Filastin Mosque. Dialogue, as such, is an issue that has been raised many times and against more than one background. So far, this dialogue has been marked by disagreement over the agreement and the Oslo accord, which has resulted in strained relations between the self-rule authority and the opposition and has been accompanied by a climate of escalation and acute divisions in the Palestinian street.

While the opposition forces are seeking to limit the dialogue to the formulation of regulations to prevent a reoccurrence of the Filastin Mosque tragedy, the self-rule authority is strongly hinting that the dialogue is political and is taking place against the background of positions on the agreement process. This calls into question the benefit, seriousness, and meaning of the dialogue! [passage omitted]

A political dialogue is neither beneficial nor practical. The sides concerned in the dialogue have no common language in which to converse. Rather, they are somewhat confused and speak in different languages, which can only lead to further differences and disagreements. Such a dialogue cannot lead to an acceptable compromise. The statements and practices of the opposition forces on one hand and of the authority on the other have led the parties to adopt diverse positions that cannot be reconciled politically. This means that the possibility of reaching a political understanding is being explored within the framework of positions that have already been taken and of conditions that will force one party to relinquish its stands in favor of the other. This constitutes self-destruction.

The self-rule authority is demanding that the opposition abandon the jihad and the struggle against the occupation in the self-rule areas and stop planning its operations from these areas. It is also demanding that the opposition abandon its arms and respect the results of the Oslo accord as the basis for coexistence with the authority. Moreover, the authority is attempting to dictate to the opposition the only method it can use in its protest activity—namely, constructive opposition. This means that one must deal with the self-rule authority as a fully empowered, nationally accepted sovereign system and that opposition to it should be conducted through various political, parliamentary, and constitutional means.

The opposition forces assert that their jihad performance and armed action against the occupation make up their raison d'etre and that they cannot exclude any place

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inside Palestine from the reach of their military operations. They also emphasize that they are not prepared to abandon their arms, especially since collaborators are still carrying weapons and acting freely while the authority dares not put an end to their provocative practices and deeds, which are carried out in collusion with the Mosad. Moreover, the authority is unable to protect and defend our people. It is arming Fatah fighters and giving them powers it does not accord the opposition. The authority also encourages these fighters to clash with the opposition. The opposition says that the self-rule authority does not represent our people's rights and interests and that, consequently, it is not obligated to comply with the consequences of an agreement it rejects and views as totally contradictory to all the principles of the Palestinian national consensus and the concepts and ideas that provide the opposition forces with their historical legitimacy and raison d'etre. [passage omitted]

The only solution facing the various parties is to reach an agreement on a series of principles that will prevent bloody clashes and a repetition of Friday's events in Filastin Mosque. The major responsibility in this sphere falls on the authority. It is also responsible for any damage done to the unity of the people, because it alone has security organs and capabilities and is the subject of Israeli pressure, whereas the opposition forces possess only their popular base and principles, which they cannot abandon. It is futile to comply with Israeli conditions and create a Palestinian society in the self-rule areas in accordance with the Israeli security perception, because through this pressure, Israel seeks to widen the gap and create more sources of tension and strife among Palestinians. Our people can neither accept nor justify the adoption of such an irresponsible stance, regardless of the pretexts.

Al-Husayni for 'Direct Coordination' With Jordan

TA1312103794 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni of East Jerusalem has called for closer ties with Jordan to the extent of "direct coordination on the ground." In an interview with AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH, the new Palestinian magazine published in Gaza, al-Husayni said that he had realized during his recent visit to Jordan that efficient channels of communication should be established in a bid to normalize the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship.

"I am not referring to routine meetings held for the sake of protocol, which we have held in the past. The coordination should be direct and address the smallest details," al-Husayni said.

This is the most far-reaching declaration in favor of cooperation with Jordan ever made by al-Husayni.

Referring to Jerusalem's the holy shrines, he said that until the Palestinians assume responsibility for Jerusalem, they should agree to Jordan's remaining the custodian of the holy sites. He explained that the Palestinians had merely objected to the attitude of Israel, which seemed to be determining the shrines' custodians, "but Jordan is against that, just as we are," al-Husayni said.

A conference of Jordanian and West Bank economists, which addressed the economic relations between the Palestinians and Jordan, has just ended in Amman.

Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, an adviser to 'Arafat, said yesterday that no date for a meeting between the PLO leader and King Husayn has yet been set. He added that no meeting had been set up during the Islamic Congress in Casablanca last week, but that he hoped 'Arafat would soon be able to visit Amman.

Pro-Jordanian sources in the territories have told our correspondent that King Husayn had decided against meeting 'Arafat in Casablanca. The king's decision was made after PLO political department head Faruq Qaddumi, speaking at the talks that preceded the Islamic Congress, reiterated the demand that the Muslim world confirm that the Palestinians are the custodians of the Jerusalem shrines.

Officials on Palestinians Stranded on Libyan Border

JN1312190794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian and Egyptian officials yesterday said that some 200 Palestinians have been stuck on the Libyan-Egyptian borders for 10 days since the Libyan authorities refused to allow them to return to their homes and jobs in Libya.

The Palestinians had visited the Gaza Strip and upon their return were stopped on the border in al-Sallum town, on the Libyan side, and were denied entry. Two Palestinian children died two days ago as a result of the severe cold in al-Sallum.

Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has threatened to expel all Palestinians working and living in Libya, whose number is estimated at 30,000.

Mozambique To Join Islamic Conference Organization

LD1012220594 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] After Abdellatif Filali's speech and amid applause by the foreign ministers of Islamic countries, Morocco, represented by Abdellatif Filali, the prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, was elected chairman of the 22nd session of the foreign minister's council. [passage omitted]

Abdellatif Filali announced the selection of Burkina Faso, Indonesia, and Palestine as vice chairmen. Pakistan was selected as the conference rapporteur.

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The current chairman, Abdellatif Filali, asked the members to accept the nomination of the Republic of Mozambique as a new member of the organization, and thanked the Mozambican people for joining the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO].

The representative of Mozambique thanked the delegates of ICO member countries for accepting Mozambique as a full member of the organization. He also thanked King Hassan II for hosting the summit and the Moroccan people for their warm welcome. [passage omitted]

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Algeria

FIS Urges International Boycott of Government

LD1412115594 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] On the occasion of the Islamic Conference Organization summit, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], the Algerian clandestine organization, has called for the international boycott of the Algerian government which it has accused of terrorism against the people.

Islamic Salvation Army Joins Forces With GIA

LD1312134094 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In a communique sent to Paris, the Islamic Armed Group [GIA] has stated that the Islamic Salvation Army, the Islamic Salvation Front's [FIS] armed wing, has decided to join forces with it. According to GIA, this unification marks the effective start of the war against the Algerian regime. However, this has not been confirmed either by independent sources or by the Islamic Salvation Army.

Security Forces Arrest 11 'Terrorists'

LD1312191994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A communique issued by the security services today said that the security forces eliminated 11 terrorists on Sunday and Monday in the provinces of Blida, Algiers, Bouira, Tizi Ouzou, and Bordj Bouarreridj. During these operations, the communique added, the security forces recovered automatic weapons, shotguns, and hand grenades. The communique said that a terrorist was arrested in Bouira Province in possession of a Beretta machine-gun and substances for the manufacturing of homemade bombs.

Envoy in Bonn Demands Ban of FIS in Germany

LD1312211694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Algerian ambassador to Germany has demanded that measures against the activities of Algerian Islamists should be taken. A report by German intelligence services published today shows the Islamists involvement in arms trafficking targeting our country.

The German intelligence services say that members of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] living in Germany are involved in sending weapons and other technical equipment to Algeria. The German intelligence services have recorded 14 extremist Islamist organizations, particularly Iranian, operating on their territory. Since 1979, the Hamburg Islamic center has become the Iranian ideological center in Western Europe for spreading Islamic thought and plays a key role in Germany, stressed the report.

Mr. Hannache, the Algerian ambassador to Bonn, said that this report has vindicated the concern and worries which the Algerian Government conveyed to the German authorities that these people are not simple refugees but are involved in terrorist, destabilizing actions. Mr. Hannache also said that Rabah Kebir [FIS representative in Europe] has removed himself from any dialogue by because of his responsibility for and encouragement of terrorism.

New Regulations for Compulsory Military Service

LD1412000194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Within the framework of reorganizing human resources with regard to national military service and in accordance with a report presented by representatives of this institution, a joint ministerial meeting was held today on national military service. A statement on this issued by the prime minister's office confirmed that the council studied and adopted the report, including all the recommendations formulated by the working group concerned.

Regarding the census question, a permanent group which will be established in every municipality will throughout the year carry out a census of the citizens concerned as well as probable ways of dealing with issues related to deferment, exemption, and conscription. Documents required for personal identity cards and passports will include proof of the holder's status in relation to military service; census certificates will be required for those who are under 20 years old and certificates of deferment or national service cards will be needed for those over 20.

With regard to the monitoring of students, the ministries in charge of education and training are expected to supply to the national service directorate of the National Defense Ministry lists of names of undergraduate and postgraduate students registered at the start of each academic year and those who have obtained graduate and postgraduate certificates at the end of each school or academic year. On the bases of these lists the citizens concerned will be able to obtain deferment permits for the whole study period and not for each year as is the case now.

With regard to job applications, each citizen who applies for a job in the public or private sector has to present proofs of his national service status— census certificates for those under 20, deferment or exemption permits and national service cards for those over 20.

Every promotion to a higher function or senior post has to be subjected to an exemption from the obligations of national service in order to ensure the continuation and

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credibility of the national service. Each candidate applying for a private sector post must present proof of exemption from national service. The national service or exemption certificates are two measures required from all citizens born after 1 November 1959 whether they have started a job or not. [passage omitted]

Business Cooperation With Italy, France Promoted

LD1412115894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Confederation of Employers has announced the signing of cooperation agreements with the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce and the French Chamber of Commerce, with a view to developing Algeria's relations with France and Italy through the promotion of exchanges and increased investments in the framework of partnership.

In a statement, the confederation also said that it would send an important delegation to Paris on 22 December to hold talks with representatives of the UN Industrial Development Organization. The talks are expected to lead to the signing of a cooperation agreement on more than 20 projects of partnership aimed at revitalizing economic activity in Algeria.

Egypt

Ministry on Attack, Murder of Policeman, Citizen

NC1412064294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2217 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—An Interior Ministry security source has denied a report transmitted by a foreign news agency that terrorists attacked a train transporting convicts when it stopped at Naj' Hammadi station.

The source said the facts are that several terrorists opened fire this evening on an undercover police warrant officer, Taha Husayn Nasr-al-Din 'Abd-al-Karim, a member of Naj' Hammadi's Transport and Communications Police, who was assigned to duties at the town's railway station. He died as a result of the shooting. Citizen 'Ali al-Sayih 'Ali, a private watchman, who happened to be in the area, was also shot and killed. The culprits escaped.

The Interior Ministry source said that senior officers of Qina Security Department, detectives, and forensic experts left for the scene to examine it. The police are trying to apprehend the culprits.

The source urged foreign news agency correspondents to check with the General Information Directorate to make sure their reports are true so that they do not transmit false news.

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 0055 GMT on 14 December adds the following: "Unidentified gunmen, suspected by security forces of having been Islamic militants, opened fire at a train station in southern Egypt, killing one policeman and a passerby, police reported.

["They said the officer was shot at the station in Naj' Hammadi, 500 kilometers (300 miles) south of here. A bystander was also killed in the incident.

["The assailants took the officer's gun before escaping, police said."]

Minister on Cash Reserves, Talks With IMF

NC1312142194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud [Bayyumi] stressed that Egypt has enough cash reserves to cover its imports for one and a half years.

He said that there are no new agreements between Egypt and the IMF and the current negotiations aim to exchange views on the Egyptian economic reform program to write off the third and final installment of Egypt's debts to the Paris Club countries, which are estimated at $4 billion.

In statements he made after opening the Week of Activating Economic Cooperation Between Egypt and the Eastern and Central European Countries today, the minister added that the economic reform program is 100 percent Egyptian. He emphasized Egypt's desire to strengthen economic cooperation and trade with the Eastern Bloc countries, noting that a trade agreement was signed today between Egypt and Ukraine. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Discover Bid To Revive Communism

NC1312144594 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Dec 94 p 14

[Report by Ahmad Musa: Attempt To Revive Communist Activities in Egypt with Foreign Funding Discovered]

[FBIS Translated Text] The security organs have discovered an attempt to revive communist activities inside Egypt led by an engineer in a corporation after foreign circles monitored huge amounts of money transferred by foreign committees abroad to a major bank in Egypt for spending on reviving these activities. This attempt was discovered during the monitoring and follow up procedures undertaken by a security organ inside the country.

The engineer received large amounts of money in foreign currencies from outside the country through the special committees for reviving communism in Egypt. An AL-AHRAM correspondent has learned that the security

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organs have detained the engineer after obtaining permission from the relevant prosecution office while the Appeals Court in Cairo issued a permit for checking the defendant's accounts in one of the banks. The legal measures taken by the investigating circles confirmed that large amounts of money have been received from abroad and deposited in several accounts in one of the banks from which the defendant withdrew a large amount of money to spend on a number of persons to recruit them to work for foreign circles.

Security sources said that the investigation circles ordered the arrest of three other persons for being involved in the operation. The Prosecution Office ordered the detention of the engineer for 15 days to continue its investigations.

Plan To Assassinate 'Political' Figure Uncovered

NC1312170394 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 7 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Investigations into the case of the "Assassination Team Group" have revealed that the defendants were behind the attempt to assassinate a senior political personality. For that purpose, they used an apartment in one of the top floors of a building in an Eastern Cairo area as the site to carry out their operation, using a shoulder-fired missile launcher. It transpires that the terrorists received the launcher from the Afghan mujahidin through a neighboring state which backs terrorist elements.

The organization, which started with four members and later expanded to 23 members, is led by Hasan Muhammad Hashim. They all belong to the Jihad Organization. Two years ago, they set up an assassination team in a bid to overthrow the regime after having obtained a large quantity of weapons and ammunition and approximately $ 1 million to spend on their plan. The defendants monitored the movements of more than 20 political and security figures. They were caught by coincidence following the arrest of terrorist Sayyid Faraj while he was assaulting a policeman. Faraj's confession led to the arrest of the remaining defendants.

The assassination list, which is backed by the defendants' confessions and investigations, included the speakers of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, the ministers of interior, information and culture, and a number of public figures, including the chief of the President's Office, the head of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and senior police officials.

Pickup Truck Carrying Weapons in Aswan Seized

NC1312140694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Aswan, 13 Dec (MENA)—Policemen in the al-Sharawinah area at the northern entrance to Aswan have seized a pickup truck carrying automatic weapons that the truck driver tried to smuggle into Aswan. The driver, 34-year-old Ahmad Farghali Muhammad, who lives in the al-Hawatikah area of Markaz Manfalut, Asyut Governorate, concealed seven automatic rifles and other firearms inside the vehicle. The weapons were found after an inspection. The driver admitted possession of the weapons and was referred to the prosecutor, who decided to remand him in custody for 15 days pending the case.

Aswan Security Chief Major General Sami 'Abd-al-Jawwad received a report from Intelligence Chief Colonel Salih al-Masri last night that the truck was seized while entering Aswan. The weapons were concealed in sacks.

Relations Reportedly Improving With Baghdad

NC1312130294 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 7 Dec 94 p 6

[From the "Thirty-Six News Items" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] Diplomatic sources have confirmed that official relations between Cairo and Baghdad are clearly improving. The sources confirmed that Egypt's political leadership received numerous messages last week from Baghdad. It also asked Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League in Cairo, to convey a verbal message expressing Egypt's satisfaction with Iraq's recent decision to recognize Kuwait.

Thirty-Six News Items often sighted Ambassador Nabil Najm this week at the Foreign Ministry.

Deputies Criticize U.S. Aid Provisions

NC1312173494 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 8-14 Dec p 2

[Report by Jamal 'Isam-al-Din: "U.S. Aid Under Parliamentary Fire"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Independent MPs, apparently angered by American newspaper criticism of Egyptian-Libyan ties, on Sunday [4 December] castigated the terms of U.S. economic aid to Egypt claiming they were more favourable to the donor than the recipient. Despite the verbal lashing, an agreement known as the "tenth amendment of the American grant for credit projects" easily won the Assembly's approval. The House, on the same day, also approved two agreements for agricultural cooperation with Libya—a sphere that is outside the scope of the UN sanctions imposed on Libya.

Independent Fikri al-Jazzar, seeking to speak his mind on Egyptian-American relations, submitted a request to Speaker Ahmad Fathi Surur for a general debate on the subject. But Surur turned him down on the grounds that it was not on the agenda.

Undaunted, al-Jazzar waited until the "tenth amendment" came up for debate to describe America's behaviour as "immoral". The $1.385 billion agreement was first signed in 1986 and has been renewed annually ever since.

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Surur asked al-Jazzar "not to use these words" but al-Jazzar retorted, "I am here to convey the pulse of the Egyptian people. Time tells us that the Americans are hoodwinking us and right now they are insulting us in their newspapers."

Faruq Mutawalli, another independent, said the agreement primarily serves American interests and includes provisions which are more favourable to the donor. Sabri Bilal from the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) complained that the interest on the agreements is unusually high and "represents a burden".

But other deputies defended the agreement. Muhammad Abu-Sudeyrah said the agreement provides 200 million Egyptian pounds for private enterprise, thus promoting agricultural and industrial development. Hurriyah Mujahid, after declaring support for the agreement, said there is "no morality or immorality, but only interests" in international relations. Mustafa al-Sa'id said the agreement served the interests of both Egypt and the United States, with Egypt gleaning greater benefits.

The terms of U.S. economic aid were also criticised during a debate by the Assembly's Economic Committee whose approval of a $4 million privatisation grant was required before the amount could be raised to $10 million. Answering deputies' questions, Ahmad Taymur, undersecretary at the Ministry of International Cooperation, said the sum of $3.4 million was earmarked as payment to consultancy offices while $340,000 would be spent on evaluation work.

Deputy Hilmi Nammar said the undersecretary's statement confirmed his doubts about the terms of U.S. aid. The statement, Committee Chairman Dr. Mustafa al-Sa'id said, meant that a major part of the aid allocation would go to technical matters and would not contribute to upgrade the performance of public sector officials so that they may undertake the evaluation work themselves. U.S. aid, al-Sa'id said, should be directed to projects which added value to the national economy or improved public services. Al-Sa'id said the undersecretary's statement was incomplete and only further confused those who wished to understand the grant agreement.

Nammar proposed the Assembly conduct hearings to assess the privatisation programme and the role of U.S. aid in it. Mahmud Makki said he would like to hear the views of managers of public sector companies on the role of U.S. privatisation grants in upgrading the performance of their companies and, consequently, maximising their value once they are put up for public subscription or any other form of privatisation.

On Sunday, the Assembly also touched on Egyptian-Libyan relations, approving with a sweeping majority two agreements for bilateral agricultural cooperation. The agreements provide for the two countries establishing a joint agricultural research centre and a joint organisation for combating pests and plant diseases, an agricultural quarantine and improving animal health.

One after another, several MPs particularly independents, said they wholeheartedly welcomed any cooperation agreements with "sister Libya". Fikri al-Jazzar said the two agreements were very significant because they came at a significant time. "We wholeheartedly welcome any form of cooperation with sister Libya," he said. "Those who do not like this, may drink the water of the ocean."

Muhammad Ghanim, another independent, said the agreements were advantageous to Egypt because they gave this country "an opportunity to use its strategic dimension". The agreements will also help in diversifying crops in the two countries, he added. "I support the government's decision to conclude such agreements with Libya, particularly at this time," he said.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, al-Asad Discuss Arab Nation Concerns

LD1212202794 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been a phone conversation between Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the revolution, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, during which they expressed their common concern over the deterioration of the conditions of the Arab nation in the face of the enemy that is still occupying its territories and killing and displacing Arabs.

The brother leader of the revolution and President al-Asad expressed their regret over concessions made to the enemy [Israel] for no return at a time when no change has occurred in Israel's stances since the occupation of Palestine in 1948 and the occupation of other Arab territories in 1967. The two leaders stressed the need for a coordination of Arab efforts to save the future of this nation.

'Arafat Calls al-Qadhdhafi on Stranded Palestinians

MM1312122794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Dec 94 p 4

[Report by Ashraf al-Faqiyy: "Libya Reacts to Sudanese Statements; Border Measures Taken To Prevent Infiltration"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo—Libyan diplomatic sources have told AL-HAYAH that the Libyan authorities' measures to check the identification papers of people entering Libya "are an internal affair; they are regular measures not targeting any particular nationalities or states. The purpose of these measures is to combat

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infiltration." They pointed out that Libya is the only state which allows Arab nationals from any state to enter the country without a visa.

They said that "Libya's vast area makes it necessary for the authorities concerned to run checks on residents and visitors, only to verify their papers and identities."

The Libyan reaction came after Sudanese statements claiming that Libya had stopped issuing entry visas to Sudanese nationals for four months.

Meanwhile, AL-HAYAH has learned that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has telephoned Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and tried to persuade him to allow 30 Palestinians who are now in the border area between Egypt and Libya to enter Libya.

In another development, Ambassador 'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general for political affairs, yesterday criticized "Israeli claims on Jerusalem." He said before leaving for Casablanca that "Jerusalem is the eternal capital of the Palestinian people." He added that Tel Aviv's "intransigence" was the cause of the obstacles on the Palestinian-Israeli track. [passage omitted]

Amnesty International on al-Kikhya Case

NC0912222094 Paris AFP in English 2158 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Dec 9 (AFP)—Amnesty International on Saturday [3 December] accused "Libyan agents" of kidnapping opposition leader Mansur al-Kikhya, who disappeared a year ago in Cairo, and urged Egypt to publish the results of an inquiry into the affair.

The human rights group said it had asked in vain the government of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for information on al-Kikhya, 64, secretary general of the National Democratic Rally opposition group who lived in exile in France.

Al-Kikhya, also a member of the Arab Organisation of Human Rights, vanished after leaving his Cairo hotel on December 11, 1993. Tripoli repeatedly denied any involvement in his disappearance.

Amnesty International was "worried because the Egyptian government has not yet published the results of the inquiry it has carried out into al-Kikhya's kidnapping and asks that they be revealed," the human rights watchdog said in press release here.

"Libyan agents kidnapped al-Kikhya, who headed the most important Libyan opposition movement and who openly criticised the regime" of al-Qadhdhafi, it added, branding the kidnapping as a "despicable and blatant violation of human rights."

Al-Kikhya, married with two children, was former foreign minister under al-Qadhdhafi from 1972 to 1975, and then ambassador to the United Nations. He resigned in 1980 after the execution of two opponents to the regime.

Morocco

Polisario Warns Rally Participants

LD1212211694 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] issued a warning to participants in the 17th Paris-Dakar Rally—which has been renamed the Granada-Dakar Rally, since its departure point is now the city of Granada in southern Spain. The Polisario says that the event's routing through the Western Sahara is a form of provocation, and that participants have become, quote, the instruments of a Moroccan public relations drive. The Saharan movement points out that, quote, despite a fragile cease-fire, the Western Sahara is still a war zone.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Divides Security Into 2 Agencies

NC1412110294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 14 Dec (MENA)—Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir has issued a decision that changes the Sudanese security service by establishing an agency for internal security and another for foreign security, the independent Sudanese newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM reported today.

The decision considers the two agencies a regular force under the general supervision of the president of the Republic or someone he delegates.

The paper said that according to the decision, Brigadier Bakri Hasan Salih, adviser to the Sudanese president for security affairs, will supervise the two agencies and coordinate between them.

Al-Ummah Party Signs Agreement With SPLM

NC1312185694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—The Sudanese al-Ummah Party has announced that it signed an agreement yesterday with the Sudanese People's

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Liberation Movement [SPLM] on ways to tackle the situation in Sudan and find a solution to the problem of the south.

In a press statement released in Cairo, the party pointed out that the agreement provides for restoring pluralist democracy, peace, and national unity based on the Sudanese people's free choice and will. Therefore, the two parties back the six-point initiative of the neighboring states as a basis for resolving the conflict. The agreement stipulates that the principles of the Nairobi Declaration of 17 April 1993 shall constitute the basis for a new constitution in the country and calls for an immediate cease-fire, the implementation of which would be monitored by the UN.

The agreement provides for a transitional period during which reconstruction will start, refugees will be housed, the war-damaged areas will be rehabilitated, and a referendum will be held for the self-determination of the people in southern Sudan. A federal or confederal Constitution for Sudan will be endorsed during the transitional period which will stipulate that a presidential rule system will be followed. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

President Receives Cuban Foreign Minister

LD0912140094 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has received a personal message from the Cuban President Fidel Castro, which was conveyed to his excellency this morning at Carthage Palace by the Cuban Foreign Minister Robaina Gonzales. Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya was present. The Cuban minister said that his meeting with his excellency the president was very positive and excellent, and pointed out that his talks with him dealt with relations between the two countries. He said that he had conveyed to his excellency the president greetings from the Cuban president and his best wishes following his election as the OAU chairman.

He added that he had also conveyed to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali Cuba's thanks to the Tunisian people for its solidarity with the Cuban people following the recent strong hurricane that hit his country. In conclusion he said: I have conveyed to his excellency the president Cuba's will and wish to bolster bilateral relations. I have found during my visit an acceptance of this wish.

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United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid on Peace, Gulf Differences, Bosnia

NC1412112494 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 13 Dec 94 p 7

[Interview with President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan by Ra'uf Shuhuri at the "Rawdat al-Rif Rest House, 50 km from Abu Dhabi"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shuhuri] Your Highness, do you expect the Islamic summit in Casablanca to achieve Arab reconciliation?

[Al Nuhayyan] If there is tolerance, there will be solidarity and victory over poverty and backwardness. Tolerance is the key to solidarity. We have always called for unifying ranks and strengthening the march of solidarity, cohesion, and accord among brothers. We have always called for solving Arab differences and creating the appropriate circumstances to strengthen cooperation among the fraternal Arab countries. We bear no grudge against anyone and we wholeheartedly wish prosperity to all, East and West. We hope all nations will coexist and cooperate in peace and stability. [passage omitted]

[Shuhuri] Will the border differences and problems among the Gulf states end soon?

[Al Nuhayyan] We hope so. Why should they not end if the judge, the plaintiff, and the defendant are present? Why should the two sides not accept the ruling of the judge?

[Shuhuri] What does Your Highness mean by "the judge?"

[Al Nuhayyan] Is there any judge other than the International Court of Justice?

[Shuhuri] Even in the disputes between Arab brothers?

[Al Nuhayyan] Indeed. Even between Arab brothers. The International Court of Justice represents global legitimacy.

[Shuhuri] In light of the massacres against Muslims in Bosnia- Herzegovina, what is Your Highness' opinion of the Western countries' position on that country? While these countries call for human rights, they ignore human rights in Bosnia.

[Al Nuhayyan] This is distressing for the world, which heard bragging about human rights. The world is idly watching human rights violations. This is not the first time the world has failed to act and to respect human rights. This happened in Somalia. When they found problems and clashes in Somalia, they fled the country. What happened in Somalia was a human tragedy. The world community, its international organizations, and its superpowers failed to do anything; they could not protect the Somali people from the ordeal, sedition, hunger, and fighting. This failure would encourage every aggressor to proceed with his aggression and oppression.

[Shuhuri] They claim they do this in the name of democracy... [ellipsis as published]

[Al Nuhayyan] They claim democracy. Where is this democracy? They did nothing. Since we saw them doing nothing to protect Man and his rights in Bosnia and Somalia, we consider their talk about democracy to be hollow rhetoric. God is more powerful and he supports the oppressed. This, of course, is better than the democracy they call for and brag about. The democracy they are talking about is like mercury; when you try to catch it, it slips from your fingers.

[Shuhuri] How does Your Highness view the peace process between the Arabs and Israel?

[Al Nuhayyan] I believe Israel knows what it wants. It knows it cannot remain in conflict in the midst of a hostile Arab world and that it cannot remain in a state of war and belligerence with its neighbors. How can it continue in this situation when it is a minority within a majority, like an island in a sea? I believe that the Israelis are thinking of their interests first and foremost. Now they are thanking their God for the reconciliation with the Arabs. But they should accelerate the achievement of a just peace with the Arabs. The Arabs must do the same thing. What are the Arabs waiting for? They should extend their hand to restore their rights and when they obtain part of their rights they should start demanding the remaining rights. This can be done gradually.

[Shuhuri] It is noted that the Gulf states, in their inclination toward rapprochement with Israel, are moving at a different pace and that the Gulf position on this issue is not unified. Is this impression right?

[Al Nuhayyan] No. People disagree in their ideas and opinions. You find some side making an effort and another side rejecting this effort. Even in a small family, not all the family members agree. So how can a large Arab world agree on one thing? Differences, therefore, must exist, and they can be handled through tolerance. We beseech God, the all-powerful, to guide us all on the righteous path, so that we can be satisfied with our conscience and with our brothers and so that our brothers can be satisfied with us. [passage omitted]

Yemen

YSP Alleges Police Occupying Party Headquarters

NC1312220094 Paris AFP in English 1956 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanaa, Dec 13 (AFP)—The opposition Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) said Tuesday [13 December] police were occupying the building housing its headquarters in Sanaa and accused the authorities of detaining one of its members, Amin Ahmad Qasim.

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"The seizure of property by force will not help a normalisation of political life in Yemen and will block efforts aimed at achieving national agreement," a YSP statement issued here said.

The Sanaa authorities did not respond to the YSP allegation.

The YSP, whose top leaders fled abroad after their defeat in the May-July Yemeni civil war, accused the police of "a flagrant violation of the constitution and human rights."

The party urged the authorities to "end the occupation of the YSP headquarters and free Amin Qasim."

The Sanaa authorities seized YSP buildings and property during and after the civil war, in which President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's northern forces crushed an attempt by southern separatists to form a breakaway state.

Earlier this month Salih appealed to opposition activists who fled abroad to return and help rebuild Yemen.

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Perry's Remarks on U.S. Gulf Interests Viewed

JN1412111094 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 10 Dec 94 pp 1, 6

[Editorial: "When the Americans Confess..!!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite all the deception practiced by the U.S. Administration to conceal the true goals of its aggression against Iraq and despite its determination to maintain the unjust blockade, in conflict with the simplest principles of justice and human rights, U.S. officials make statements from time to time that reveale their intentions and prove that we were right when we said that Iraq was attacked to achieve hostile U.S. goals and that the aggression had nothing to do with the so-called international legitimacy, the desire to maintain stability, or with the enforcement of law..!

The statements of U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry are an example. They clearly indicate that the aggression against Iraq was aimed at protecting oil resources in the Arab Gulf region. This is further proof of the true motives of the U.S. Administration. It also shows the world the other sides of the picture, which was not meant to be revealed—a picture of the berserk aggressiveness of the United States that does not hesitate to use the meanest ways to perpetuate the terrible machine of the American cowboy, to dominate the resources of nations' wealth, and to confiscate their right to a decent life.

We are not saying this without reason. The U.S. secretary's statements are sufficient evidence for those who search for realities to reach the truth. These statements are based on arrogance, feelings of superiority, and irresponsibility in terms of weighing matters and estimating them in a proper way. What underscores the aggressive dimensions of these statement is that they have coincided with a similar tone used by the U.S. chairman of the joint chiefs of staff who departed from reason and logic and whose statements were in harmony with the statements of his secretary and with the aggressive trends of his administration.

The question is: What logic allows the United States to consider force a necessary element to safeguard its interests and to guarantee its control over the Arabian Gulf oil? And what legitimacy replaces sound relations and mutual respect—which are the only path to safeguard legitimate interests—with force, aggression, and threats?!!

There is no doubt that this serious course, which the United States insists on adhering to and considers one of the pillars of its new world order, must be faced with firm, principled stands. Such stands must take into consideration that the Americans want the world, which is on the threshold of the 21st Century, to be formed in accordance with their own interests and strategies that are based on replacing reason and legitimacy with criminal force as the only way to achieve this.

The U.S. stand vis-a-vis patient and steadfast Iraq has exposed all false allegations and slogans about human rights, as well as the other "shining" slogans! However, the largest part of the aggressive scheme has been foiled thanks to the Iraqis' steadfastness and insistence on following the road of defending their future and thanks to their rally around their historic leader Saddam Husayn.

'Aziz Meets French National Front Delegation

JN1312210594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1906 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today received a delegation of the French National Front [words indistinct] Michel Duboi [name as transliterated] deputy president of the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Patrick Richard, the official in charge of the press for the party.

Discussions dealt with relations between Iraq and France, which were harmed by the unjust siege imposed on Iraq, and the need to activate these relations in a manner that serves the national interests of the two friendly peoples.

The French National Front delegation is visiting Iraq at the invitation of the National Assembly.

Official Concludes Visit, Departs

JN1412090694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 14 Dec

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Dec (INA)—Jean Michel Duboi [name as transliterated], member of the French National Front Party's Political Bureau and deputy chairman of the Paris Chamber of Industry and Commerce, left Baghdad today at the end of a one-week visit to Iraq.

During the visit, Duboi held talks with a number of officials. The talks focused on relations between Iraq and France and means to improve them, as well as the need to work on activating these relations to serve the interests of the two friendly peoples.

Al-Samarra'i Urges Army Officers To Rebel

JN1312135194 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Dec 94

["Text" of open letter from Staff Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i to the officers and non-commissioned officers in the Iraqi Armed Forces; place and date not given] txt
[FBIS Translated Text] To Staff Generals 'Abd-al-Jabbar Khalil Shanshal, 'Abd-al-Jawad Dhannun, Husayn Rashid, Sa'di Tu'mah, Nizar 'Abd-al-Karim al-Khazraji; Staff Lieutenant Generals Hisham al-Fakhri, Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir,

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Sultan Hashim Ahmad, Iyad Khalil Zaki, Ahmad Hammad, Shawkat Ahmad 'Ata, Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Sattar, Salah 'Abbud; commanders of army corps and divisions and directors of departments; to the free men in the commands of the Air Force and the Naval Force and the command of the Army Gunships Corps, and the governors.

Honorable gentlemen, peace be upon you. In the recent past, we worked together with one spirit in building the great army of Iraq—an army which we wanted to serve as a protective shield of the homeland. Saddam wanted to turn it into a destructive tool against the people and brethren and to use it to strike at values and stability. Regrettably, he managed to realize his goal of spreading destruction and terrorism. Inevitably, you are fully aware of what is going on. You know Saddam better than anyone else. Therefore, I need not recall the tragedies caused by Saddam's decisions to engage in war with Iran and his decisions to engage in war against the brethren in the second Gulf war, Desert Storm. I will shed light on these two events.

Brothers: Why do you find it appealing to superficially remain in Saddam's trench? Do you not know that Saddam is the one who killed your elder brothers and the best of your youth to secure his stay as a dictator? Are you not aware of the behavior of Saddam and of his sons, brothers, and cousins and the degree of their corruption and lasciviousness? Are you not aware of the extent of destruction inflicted on the country? Has Saddam realized a single humane goal in all his wars? For whose sake do people eat this kind of bread which has never been consumed by a single human being on this earth? For whose sake do the people suffer, at a time when Saddam and members of his family get more oppressive and opulent? Where is our great army and where are our planes? A simple mistake on your part takes you to the execution yard. Why was Saddam not taken to account for his decision to send about 150 fighter planes to Iran? Where are these planes—although we respect Iran's stand in not boosting Saddam's oppression? For whose sake should we remain silent? There is a shortage of medicine while Saddam is building palaces which he says are the people's palaces. As you are aware, by people he means his criminal family. Inevitably, these palaces will return to the people. The people will even undermine his regime before these palaces have been completed. Certainly, you support what I say and certainly all of your hearts are with the people. However, we are not seeking the minimum degree of reaction. It is neither proper nor acceptable to have 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Husayn Kamil, and Watban [Ibrahim al-Hasan] as your leaders. These persons lack all values and morals and they are sergeants and junior servicemen, although we harbor all respect and appreciation for our Armed Forces NCO's.

Coordination among you is important and even basic. You have experienced struggle, and I was with you, for humane goals. These goals, however, were distorted in the interest of Saddam and his oppression contrary to your will. We must atone for what is believed to be our sins. We must all move and stand by the revolution—the revolution of the people and an entire history. Do you believe that the people will forsake their struggle against Saddam? Never, until he is toppled.

Brothers: I appeal to you in the name of right; I appeal to you in the name of the souls of the martyrs and victims—these souls that we want to hover peacefully in the sky of a free, democratic, and unified Iraq; I appeal to you in the name of all those victimized by Saddam and his aides; I appeal to you in the name of all orphans, widows, and hungry people; I appeal to you in the name of Iraq's great values, whose genuineness was distorted by Saddam; I appeal to you as men to quit Saddam's stagnant pool and to ascend to where you should be, on the peaks of glory in any part on Iraq. Mock Saddam as I have mocked him and rebel against him as I did in order to follow those who went ahead of us toward glory. This is an appeal of right and glory. Inevitably, you will listen to it. We are fully aware of you and of your genuineness. It is the aggressor that will suffer misfortunes.

[Signed] Your brother Staff Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i

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Baraq, Vilna'i on Call for Action in Lebanon

TA1312162294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq said today that Hizballah will enjoy immunity nowhere and that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will act wisely in doing what it should in south Lebanon. He told our correspondent Nisim Qeynan that very fine achievements were scored in south Lebanon last month and more than 20 terrorists were killed, but the IDF and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] also paid dearly. The chief of staff was saying his farewells to the top brass of the Southern Command, the Giv'ati Brigade, soldiers who serve in the Gaza Strip, and Bedouin notables today.

Speaking at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this afternoon, Major General Matan Vilna'i, deputy chief of staff, said he will deal with Brigadier General Shalom Ben-Moshe, chief of the Education Corps, who said in a press interview that the IDF should take initiated action against Hizballah. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Gen. Vilna'i told the committee that he believes army officers should not express their opinions regarding areas outside the scope of their mission.

Referring to similar remarks by the commander of the Northern Command, the deputy chief of staff said he finds no fault with them because Gen. Levin made the remarks after visiting wounded soldiers. Regarding the defense minister's criticism of the remarks, Gen. Vilna'i said this is Mr. Rabin's prerogative as the supreme commander of the army.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 13 December carries a related report by Hadar Vismonsky, noting that in his briefing to the Knesset committee on the Lebanese issue, Vilna'i said "we do not intend to go in massively. Over the past few years, we have reduced our control there and handed it over to the SLA. Vilna'i explained that the IDF's goal is to deliver precision blows at Hizballah in order to destabilize it. The IDF operates well in south Lebanon, he said, but stressed that the arguments over its performance will be settled by the commanders in the field" and not "in corridors or through debates."]

IDF on 'High Alert'; Hizbullah Attacks Expected

TA1412065694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Northern Command of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is on high alert following the assessment that Hizballah terrorists will bolster their attempts to attack the IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army]. Senior army sources said that the Northern Command has plans, some of which have already been implemented and others that will be implemented as needed. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

[Menashe] Senior military sources believe that the defense policy, which is dictated by Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, basically will not change. The Northern Command's activity, which is founded on the policy of defending the northern settlements, the security zone, and IDF and SLA troops in those areas, will continue to form the basis for any future action. The sources also noted that the Northern Command has plans, some of which have already been executed and others that will definitely be implemented, based on operational requirements and activity in the field. It is best that the IDF carry out its activities based on operational wisdom, according to what is happening on the ground and without superfluous talk with no operational content to it.

Activity is necessary; that has been the policy up to now and will continue to be policy, but there is no point in endangering lives, even a single soldier, without specific targets. When there has been a defined target, the IDF has acted and will continue to do so. There is no single proven military option for dealing with terrorism. All the talk about a new strategy and an aggressive policy is baseless, senior IDF officers said.

Military sources said policymakers, especially the political echelon, are concerned about a military and political entanglement in Lebanon, especially at this stage. As will be recalled, following the Lebanon war and the IDF withdrawal, Rabin, as defense minister in the unity government, formulated Israel's defense concept of the northern border. This concept is based on the existence of the security zone, the SLA's operating inside it, with the IDF's backing and training, and a sophisticated security fence. Added to this concept are actions taken north of the security zone based on pinpointed intelligence, with attacks on terrorists inside their bases when we have good intelligence for such actions.

IDF Guidelines for Redeployment Plans Reported

TA1112164294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Dec 94 pp A1, A2

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] An internal IDF [Israel Defense Forces] memo by Planning Branch chief, Major General 'Uzi Dayan, urges expediting staff work for the second stage of negotiations with the Palestinians so that it can impact on the negotiations and promote the implementation process.

The document, which has been distributed to the Planning Branch, details the IDF redeployment under the Rainbow B plan which addresses the IDF pullout from population centers in the West Bank and the transfer of the territory to the Palestinians. The document, which also contains working instructions, notes that "although there are no detailed instructions at this stage, we must adhere to as short a timetable as possible, in order to

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allow for staff work and the examination of the issues to affect the course of the negotiations and to promote the implementation process."

Another clause of the document says: "To have an impact on the negotiating moves, staff work to implement the interim arrangement should be done on a short and realistic schedule. Infrastructure issues which are not closely linked to the initial implementation will be resolved in a lengthier timetable."

Another army document indicates that the IDF believes that a partial and gradual implementation of the interim arrangement is a reasonable option and, in any event, it will start with the following stages: 1. Preliminary redeployment—pulling out of population centers. 2. Entry of the Palestinian Police. 3. Elections. 4. Empowerment.

According to the deputy chief of staff's instructions to the Planning Branch, the staff priorities for implementing the interim agreement are as follow: A. The detailed planning of West Bank bypass roads, including the need to seize land for road construction. B. The deployment of IDF camps in the West Bank and their evacuation to locations inside the Green Line; the construction of headquarters bases; and continuing to provide security forces.

Another staff project deals with plans for firing ranges following the IDF pullout from population centers; locating sites from which control can be maintained; locating sites for shooting practice; and setting up regional liaison offices and joint patrol units. Staff work has been done by the Planning Branch over the past several weeks, along with with the Central Command, the Logistics Branch, the Ground Forces Command, and the headquarters of the unit coordinating government activities in the territories. The staff work will be based on a general order to focus mainly on preliminary preparations to pull out of West Bank population centers, the implementation of which is supposed to precede the elections.

The IDF's working premise includes a recommendation that the army should exit the population centers following a pre-redeployment stage to be executed within six months, "although we should be prepared for the option of pre-redeploying within three months of the outset of work in the field."

Senior army sources said that it is vital to prepare deployment plans that can offer a viable option both for peace and for an emergency situation; to resolve the dividing line problem; examine the electricity, water, and communications infrastructure spheres; and establish new intelligence, communications, and military liaison networks.

Planning Branch sources said that the IDF pullout from the West Bank will be different from the Gaza Strip pullout because the West Bank redeployment must address settlement defense needs. "There are more than 140 settlements there, and they should be all given maximum protection. We must study and implement the lessons learned in the Gaza Strip; set up joint patrols; define the borders of a barrier enclave that will serve as a security area against fugitives and terror squads that will try to infiltrate and attack," the sources said.

As reported by HA'ARETZ several weeks ago, the IDF has drafted a map of bypass roads giving priority to certain locations, such as the Ramallah bypass. The outlay for the plan is about 1 billion shekels. A senior military source said that "redeployment outside the West Bank will be the main test of our peace accord with the Palestinians."

Security Detains Former Hamas Deportee in West Bank

TA1212161494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In Nablus this morning, the security forces detained Shaykh Jamal Salim, a former Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportee to Marj al-Zuhur.

Our correspondent notes that the shaykh recently said in the media that Israeli and Palestinians civilians should be removed from the cycle of violence and he supported the opening of a dialogue between Israel and Hamas.

The man shot dead this morning by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] near Nahal 'Oz is 'Abd-al-'Aziz Matua, 22, from Gaza. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that the man is known as a car thief and he planned to cross the border with his friends. The others managed to escape to the Gaza Strip.

Shahal Meets al-Husayni on Orient House Activities

TA1212055394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian official Faysal al-Husayni has promised Police Minister Moshe Shahal that future activities at Orient House, the PLO headquarters in East Jerusalem, will not differ from those which took place there prior to the Oslo accord. He also promised that no political activities will be held there.

Al-Husayni and Shahal met last night in Jerusalem at the home of Moshe Sason, Israel's former ambassador to Egypt. Shahal said the Palestinians asked that the police presence around Orient House be reduced and that it be made easier for Palestinians to enter Jerusalem.

High Palestinian Population Figures Dismissed

TA0912123694 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Dec 94 p A3

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Reports that the Palestinian population in the territories is a third larger than previously thought were dismissed by the Central Bureau of Statistics yesterday.

A survey ordered by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin estimated the number of Palestinians in Gaza, Judaea, Samaria, and Jerusalem at 2.4 million.

Rabin is quoted as saying that he has asked that the figures be checked, since they are much higher than previously thought.

According to Central Bureau of Statistics figures, the Palestinian population in the territories stood at 1.85m. at the end of last year. The new finding would mean that 600,000 Palestinians were previously unaccounted for.

Tatzpit Research Institute director Aharon Fein said this is highly unlikely, since the civil administration has maintained careful records on the Palestinian population for security reasons. He noted the authorities have been keeping a population registry, and issuing every Palestinian an identity card. "Even a sudden increase of 10,000 would be very surprising," he said.

"I don't know where the 2.4m. figure comes from," Central Bureau of Statistics spokesman David Neuman said.

Neuman admitted that since the beginning of the intifadah in 1988, the accuracy level of the territories' population figures is not as good as before. However, he insisted there is no way the population could have jumped by a third through natural increase.

According to a statistician, documenting deaths is the major challenge facing population surveys in the territories, especially in refugee camps, since reporting a death means losing a valuable UNWRA [UN Works and Relief Agency] ration card.

First Group of Syrian Tourists Arrives

TA1312190194 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Dec 94

[Menahem Horowitz video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Political negotiations between Israel and Syria are not moving yet, but this is not stopping Syrian tourists from visiting Israel. The first group of tourists arrived here over the past few days. Some of them have families in Arab villages in the north. The Galilee and the Golan are the most popular sites the Syrians want to tour. They were told in secret about the beautiful places in the Galilee. Yahya 'Abdallah, from the Bedouin village of Tuba, videotapes the visits, and the tapes will be sent to Damascus. [passage omitted]

The residents of Tuba hope that when peace comes, family reunions will take place. They speak here of building homes for the refugees from 1948.

Likud Withdraws No-Confidence Motion on Druze Issue

TA1212062194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Likud faction has decided to withdraw from the Knesset agenda a no-confidence motion in the government over the crisis with Druze communities, but a motion by Tzomet on the same issue remains on the agenda.

Opposition members expressed satisfaction over the agreement the government reached yesterday with the Druze. Members of the Likud asserted that the threat of a no-confidence motion and the possible participation of Druze Knesset members in the vote propelled the government into negotiations.

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Joint Jordanian-Israeli Committees Hold Meetings

Transport Committee Concludes Talks

JN1312144094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian-Israeli Transport and Communications Committee has concluded its meetings after discussing the many issues on its agenda.

Dr. Durayd Mahasinah, head of the Jordanian side to the meetings, said the issues discussed, in their entirety, focused on topics linked to economic development and ways to promote the Jordanian trade lines, market Jordanian goods, and preserve Jordanian investments, including the movement of buses, trucks, and tourist groups.

Environment Committee Begins Meetings

JN1312153994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian-Israeli Environment Committee held its first preparatory meeting at the Dead Sea Hotel today. The Jordanian side was led by Dr. Durayd Mahasinah, director general of the Ports Authority, while the Israeli side was led by Dr. (Yisra'el Belja).

Following the meeting, Dr. Mahasinah told reporters that a package of integrated environmental issues was discussed. This package includes water, air, the Jordan Rift Valley, and the harmful solid waste of factories.

He added that the environment is one of the important issues addressed in the [Jordanian-Israeli] peace treaty. The overall discussions that will be held must lead to agreements that have specific frameworks, programs, and projects in this regard, he noted.

Crime, Drugs Committee Convenes

JN1312155694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian-Israeli Environment Committee held its first preparatory meeting at the Dead Sea Hotel today.

In another development, the Jordanian-Israeli Crime and Drugs Committee has held a meeting. The conferees discussed, in general, the committee's functions and worked out a general outline for it in order to achieve its objectives in light of the agenda set by the articles of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

Security, Borders Committee Meets

JN1312185194 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Jordan and Israel have held talks on cooperation in environmental protection, security and borders, and combating crime and drug trafficking. [passage omitted]

Jordan's chief delegate to the borders and security committees Major General Tahsin Shurdum said after the talks were concluded that the two sides had reviewed progress done so far to demarcate the common borders.

He said more than 75 percent of the border points had been defined, and that demarcation of borders in the south would be completed in the next two weeks before moving on to Jordan northern boundary. [passage omitted]

Al-Majali on Future Ties With Palestinians

JN1112092694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Dec 94 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The prime minister, Dr. 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali, said yesterday that Jordan had no intention of returning Jordanian-Palestinian relations to what they were before 1967, and there was no justification for Palestinian suspicions that the Kingdom was standing in the way of Palestinian self-determination and statehood. In a keynote address to the seminar on the "Future Jordanian-Palestinian Relations" yesterday, the prime minister said there were crucial outstanding issues that Jordan and the Palestine National Authority (PNA) had to settle between them right away.

On the top of these, Dr. al-Majali said, are the issues of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons, which have to be dealt with before negotiations on the final status begin with Israel.

Economic coordination is another important topic that has to be dealt with, the prime minister said in the address, which was read on his behalf by Senator Kamil Abu-Jabir. The new regional order, security, and coordination in the sectoral and employment fields are also topics of common concern that have to be discussed and agreed upon, Dr. al-Majali added.

As far as Jerusalem was concerned, the prime minister said, Jordan had told the Organisation of Islamic Conference [ICO] that it had no right to debate the guardianship of Islamic shrines in that holy city at its forthcoming summit meeting.

"With all due respect, this issue does not belong to the OIC summit (...) and administering the holy shrines in East Jerusalem is not negotiable," the prime minister said.

The 51 members of the OIC are due to open a two-day summit on Tuesday in Casablanca, Morocco, at which various issues affecting Muslims will be discussed.

Dr. al-Majali repeated Jordan's commitment to managing the Muslim holy sites "until the Palestinian authority has spread to the territory."

He hoped a meeting between PLO leader for the territories Faysal al-Husayni and Crown Prince Hassan last week had "settled this issue once and for all."

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Mr. al-Husayni said after the meeting that Jordan should stay in control of the sites until the city passes into the hands of the Palestinian authority.

"The Jordanians are the trustees of the religious sites and we do not want to make any changes at this stage until the Palestinian authority spreads to Jerusalem," he said.

A row had broken out in July when Israel recognised Jordan's historic role in protecting the sites in the Washington Declaration signed between the two countries.

But PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, who had condemned Israel for the clause in the treaty, was appeased when Jordan said it would hand over control of the sites once talks on the city's final status due to start in 1996 were complete.

Following are major excerpts from the prime minister's speech.

The primary question for the future is why we should start by defining the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. There are many aspects that make this eventuality the best solution, and we may agree to that. But at this point, the Palestinian National Authority is still seeking Palestinian rights over Palestinian land, including sovereignty. If we concentrate more on the Cairo declaration and agreements, much of these accords and procedures are still in need of developing before the Palestinian authority achieves its full institutional structure. Therefore, the main concentration should aim at completing this objective first. To my understanding, the confederation means a centralised leadership for two governments, flags, and national anthem, and by which each party administers its own internal affairs. Until now, this simplified structure of the confederation lacks one of the basic elements, the Palestinian sovereignty over its land, in order to complete the executive, legislative, and judicial structures. It is premature therefore to consider a confederation. And most important, the Palestinian people should have their say on this matter away from any economic, political, or psychological pressure. From previous experience in the Arab World, we have learned the hard way that providing the basic elements for any form of unity is not enough, but rather the people of concerned parties should have the final say.

I am aware of some views which claim that Jordan's refusal to deal with the issue of confederation is caused by its refusal to accept an independent Palestinian entity. Of course such claims are false. Jordan has always demanded and stressed the necessity to enable Palestinians to decide their own future.

The concept of confederation is not new. I personally remember that in the '70s I prepared a paper on the "United Arab Kingdom", which was very similar to the concept of confederation. Back then, the idea was not accepted by the Palestinian side as they believed that it would affect their aspiration to establish a future Palestinian state.

This leads me to discuss the elements needed by both sides to prepare (for positive future ties). First of all we need cooperation which would prepare us to face the requirements of peace, and which would guarantee accomplishing our common interest, in regard to both the regional and international challenges.

We have to note that Jordan and the Palestinian authority have been proceeding with the peace process at the same time. The Palestine Liberation Organisation signed the declaration of principles on 13 September 1993, while we have signed the common agenda on 14 September 1993. Jordan has signed the peace treaty after five months of the May 4 Cairo agreement. Due to the Cairo agreement and the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, a lot of work with Israel remains to be done. While the Palestinian authority is negotiating with Israel to fulfill its rights, to practice its sovereignty in order to complete the structure of its authority. Jordan is negotiating with Israel to restore its rights and to organise bilateral relations on an equal basis like any two states enjoying full sovereignty.

This highlights the importance of agreement between Jordan and the Palestinian authority on many current issues that cannot be postponed. Other issues that remain to be dealt with also concern Israel and Egypt, as well as other Arab states.

Jordan must reach an agreement with the Palestinian authority on the issue of displaced persons. Jordan has accepted to postpone the matter until the final negotiations have begun. Nevertheless, this issue has a sizeable impact on demographics in both Jordan and Israel, and extends to Egypt as well. The three Arab parties should be able to come to a common agreement before the meetings of the quadripartite committee with Israel. As for the (1948) refugees, it is the most crucial issue which both Jordanian and Palestinian parties should begin tackling right away. Negotiations on this issue will relate directly to Israel, and may be related to the rest of the international community within the peace process. There are other sides concerned with the issue of refuges within the transitional stage that should be tackled. For example in the issue of UNRWA moving to Gaza, we have to make sure that an institution like that maintains its work towards the rights of the refugees.

As to economic coordination between Jordan and the PNA, which is very important, we know that the Palestinians have reached accords with the Israelis in Paris on 29 April 1994 and again under the Cairo agreement of 4 May 1994. The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, on the other hand, included paragraphs whose aim is to reach bilateral agreements. The Palestinian National Authority and the Jordanian government will both find themselves entering economic arrangements with Israel while they have not yet reached agreement between themselves. Why?

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There have been several attempts to establish an economic relationship on strong bases. We have also worked to maintain this tie within the outline of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations in order to support an independent Palestinian economy, separate from Israel's and to forge a partnership with Jordan which would be beneficial to both sides. To Jordan the improvement in and independence of the Palestinian economy will be beneficial to the Jordanian economy itself. I do not want to go through the reasons that have hindered us from completing our economic talks, even though we are on track in the fields of banks and monetary systems. But there remains an urgent need to define our economic relationship as a whole.

There are the regional dimensions that we should address together, especially in the economic field. There are two important elements in this regard. The first is that any new regional order has to take into account Jordan and the Palestinian territories. The second is that any relationship between Israel and Jordan cannot be forged without considering the link in between which is the West Bank.

Both the Jordanian government and the Palestinian authority should agree and organise their relations regarding the sectoral fields which will be transferred from Israel to the Palestinian National Authority. Such sectoral fields include education, health, legislation, property, taxes, and many others in which Jordan has also shown great flexibility towards our brothers, especially during the occupation.

We are all aware that Israel gives the issue of security a great importance. We may find that because of its security priorities, Israel finds it necessary not to give the Palestinians their rights. That has been clear in the Israeli policy towards the Palestinian labour force working in Israel, postponing withdrawal from Palestinian cities, and the limitations against the Palestinians to move freely in their territories. That is why the Jordanian and Palestinian sides are called upon to put in place a security scenario which would help both parties to negotiate in an atmosphere of stability.

Allow me to say that Jordan can never be an obstacle towards establishing a Palestinian authority or to accomplishing the dreams of the Palestinian people. Unfortunately we occasionally hear statements claiming that Jordan, due to its historical relations with the Palestinian territories, seeks to deal with the Palestinian situation as it was during 1950-1967. Such claims are false. Jordan disintegrated itself administratively from the West Bank and there is no reason for such Palestinian worry. The only way to restore the Palestinian rights over their land and to determine their own future is by ending the Israel occupation in all its forms.

The basic aim of the negotiations is to achieve that goal. Due to Israeli ambitions beyond the peace process, and because of the complications caused by the occupation during the past two decades, the Palestinian track was divided in two stages: transitional, and final. In Jordan we are aware of how difficult that separation has been and will be since the two stages cannot be clearly divided. But we believe that complications could be solved, and that the Israelis would eventually be convinced that inflexibility in accepting a comprehensive and just solution will only hinder their peaceful goals. Now we observe a change in their attitude. Such a thing was bound to happen due to the dynamic negotiating process, and because inflexibility only leads to more problems between both parties. The aim is to reach an agreement parallel to the Jordanian-Israeli position towards the final solution for the Palestinian track, the region would be able to reach the hoped for peace with all its national and regional aspects. If we assume that Israel is to reach by 1995 a peaceful solution with Syria and Lebanon, the success of such peace treaties will remain at a low ebb until the Palestinian people has accomplished its aspirations and aims.

As for Jerusalem, Jordan's position has always been clear in playing its role as a guardian of the holy places until the Palestinian National Authority is able to take over. With all due respect, this issue is not for the Islamic Summit to decide on. On the other hand, the Islamic Summit could contribute in funding Arab housing projects in Jerusalem or the maintenance of the holy shrines, and in making funds available to schools and industries. Our aim is to maintain the Arab identity of Jerusalem. Regarding the right of guardianship of the holy places, it remains not negotiable. Therefore we hope that our brothers would understand the situation and its reasons.

Palestinian Objection to ICO Resolution Noted

JN1412095694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Dec 94 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "The Islamic Summit and the Issue of Jerusalem"]

[FBIS Translated Text] While His Majesty King Husayn continues his efforts on the sidelines of the Islamic Conference in Casablanca to coordinate and crystallize clear and strong Islamic stands toward various sensitive issues, especially the issues of Bosnia and Afghanistan, foreign ministers of the Islamic countries failed to formulate a draft resolution on Jerusalem. This failure was due to the Palestinian brothers' objection to the inclusion of a paragraph praising Jordan's continuous efforts since the 1920's to preserve Jerusalem's character and holy places.

The foreign ministers will refer their dispute to the leaders to settle. We are confident that the leaders will reach agreement on this issue. However, many questions come to the mind of the observer as to why our brothers in the self-rule authority oppose this paragraph, which praises Jordan's role and efforts in taking care of the holy places. These efforts are well known to all. The latest such effort was the third Hashemite renovation of the

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holy Dome of the Rock. Jordan has time and again explained its position on the holy places. Jordan has clearly stated that it has no sovereignty ambitions in the holy city. It is inescapable for Jordan to continue carrying out its historic role in taking care of the holy places until the brother Palestinians have control over these places in order not to create a legal vacuum that would be exploited by Israeli fanatics. Following Israel's annexation of the holy city after the 1967 war, the only alternative to the role of the Jordanian Ministry of Awqaf [endowments] and Islamic Affairs and Holy Places in Jerusalem would have inevitably been the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs, thus threatening the character, existence, and safety of the holy places.

It was not expected at all that opposition to praising the Jordanian role would come from the brothers, whose pain and suffering Jordan has shared. It was also unexpected that this issue would be a subject of dispute as long as the holy city is still under the domination of the Israeli occupation troops.

Efforts should be basically concentrated on restoring the holy city, terminating occupation, and engaging in the essence of peace in the region—peace that cannot be complete until the Palestinian brothers obtain their full rights on their national soil.

The fair observer cannot but praise the persistent efforts of His Majesty King Husayn and his constant concern for uniting ranks, restoring Arab solidarity, and resurrecting the nation, restoring its rights, and healing its many wounds. These efforts are worthy of the support of brothers and friends everywhere. One is confident that these efforts will realize their goals thanks to the patience of King Husayn and the wisdom of the Hashemite leadership and its historic and Islamic terms of reference. Jordan's insistence on continuing its role toward holy Jerusalem comes in response to the call of sacred duty and out of its concern for the Islamic nation's rights in its holy places. Jordan has never shirked and will never shirk this duty to appease a friend or a brother.

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Khaddam Views 'Strategic Goal' of Peace, Weapons

NC1412104294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA)—Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has stressed that peace is a strategic goal for Syria. He said Israel's attempts to make peace contingent upon formalities, such as a visit to Israel by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad or a visit to Syria by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, are unjustified.

In an exclusive statement to today's edition of AL-'ALAM ALYAWM [the world today], Khaddam said Israel's concern for its security does not justify its keeping the occupied Arab territories. Israel cannot link peace with the elimination of weapons of mass destruction as long as it is not committed first to destroying its own nuclear weapons.

The Syrian vice president warned the Arab countries against Israel's nuclear armament. He said Israel's arms will remain directed toward the Arabs and their capabilities.

Asked if Israel seeks to dominate the region and divide the Arab world into east and west, Khaddam stressed that the Arab east and the Arab west are inseparable and that any Israeli plan to harm the Arab nation or threaten its identity will fail. This will not happen and Israel will never dominate the region, he said.

Khaddam said that those who wanted to transcend the Arab League will realize that they made a big mistake, because the Arab League is the home of all the Arabs. He noted that when the Gulf crisis erupted, the Arab League met and passed decisive resolutions that provided the cover and the ground for liberating Kuwait from the Iraqi forces.

Official Papers Say Israel Killing Hope for Peace

NC1312184394 Paris AFP in English 1651 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Dec 13 (AFP)—Syria's official newspapers on Tuesday [13 December] accused Israel of trying to kill all hope for peace in the Middle East, after the Israeli army threatened to go on the attack against Hizballah guerrillas in south Lebanon.

"At a time when the United States tries to create a climate favorable for peace talks to resume in Washington, Israeli officials are seeking to kill the slightest glimmer of hope," said the ruling Ba'th party newspaper, AL-BA'TH.

"The Israelis talk much more of war than peace, under the pretext that the Lebanese resistance is disturbing them," it added, accusing Israel of "seeking to create an atmosphere lethal to peace."

The commander of Israel's northern region General Amiram Levin on Sunday warned that the army was going "to have to take the initiative in the war against Hizballah," the Iranian-backed fundamentalist group which spearheads anti-Israeli attacks in southern Lebanon.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Monday however ruled out any major military offensive, saying there were no miracle solutions for preventing guerrilla attacks.

Israel and Syria are to hold contacts soon in Washington with a view to resuming their official peace talks, suspended after a Jewish settler massacred 29 Palestinians in a Hebron mosque on February 25.

The two sides are deadlocked over the scale and timetable of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, seized in the 1967 Arab- Israeli war.

Israel has also repeatedly accused Damascus of not doing enough to clamp down on Hizballah's activities. Syria is the main foreign power broker in Lebanon, deploying around 35,000 troops there.

Kuwaiti Parliament Speaker Praises al-Asad

JN1012101894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus—Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun, speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly, has praised the position of Syria and its leader President Hafiz al-Asad on the peace process. He voiced pride in, and appreciation of, this firm principled position, which is based on the need to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy.

In a news conference he held last night, which was attended by accredited Arab and foreign correspondents in Damascus, al-Sa'dun stressed the need to rally behind the principled Syrian position. [passage omitted]

On the Damascus Declaration, al-Sa'dun said: This declaration is here to stay because it was born from the dilemma and is, therefore, very important. When the Damascus Declaration came, we had the now-defunct Joint Arab Defense Pact. But before the declaration, principled positions were held by both Syria and Egypt, as well as by the Gulf states.

He said: We advocate the Damascus Declaration and the need to discuss all of its details because we want a declaration that establishes a link between commitments and rights and that is discussed by all parties. Its decisions must also be discussed. We aspire to provide this declaration as an example to other Arab states as an alternative to the Joint Defense Pact. We must not fear differences over certain points in the declaration. This is possible because every agreement must be discussed in detail.

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Asked about the normalization of Arab ties with Israel and Kuwait's position on this subject, al-Sa'dun said: The rush by several Arab states to normalize ties with Israel will weaken the Syrian position in the current phase. There must be a cohesive position to support the only steadfast position—that is the Syrian position.

Regarding the Arab boycott of Israel and Kuwait's position, al- Sa'dun said that Kuwait's decision on the first-degree boycott still stands. He said that to discuss this issue, we need to specify the degree of the boycott we are talking about. [passage omitted]

Speaker Leaves After 3 Days

JN1012160994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun, speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly, left Damascus today after a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic which lasted three days. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the People's Assembly; Dr. Muhammad Salman, minister of information; Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the Arab and International Relations Committee at the People's Assembly; the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

In statements to reporters, al-Sa'dun said: My visit coincided with recent developments in the Middle East peace process. President Hafiz al-Asad's meeting with us and what we heard from his excellency about the Syrian position on the process to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the region is the object of admiration and appreciation.

Reportage on Kuwaiti Information Minister Visit

Minister Arrives

JN1012180094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwaiti Minister of Information Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, arrived in Damascus today on visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Minister of Information Dr. Muhammad Salman, the two assistants to the minister of information, the head of the Journalists Federation, the directors of the news agencies, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus, and the Embassy staff.

In statements to a SANA correspondent, Shaykh al-Sabah said: I am honored to visit sisterly Syria at the invitation of Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman. This will provide me with a good opportunity to meet with officials in sisterly Syria and to hold talks with media men here. I hope God will grant us success in finding a common foundation for media exchange.

Shaykh al-Sabah added: We, in Kuwait, value and fully appreciate the stands adopted by sisterly Syria's leadership and people on all the political, media, and security levels, as well as in all other fields.

He concluded by saying: I hope almighty God will support the constant love and brotherhood between us and grant us success in achieving all our ambitions and aspirations.

Meets Counterpart, Holds Talks

JN1012195694 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman received Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah and his delegation at 1800 today. The meeting was attended by the minister's assistant, a number of Information Ministry officials, and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus.

The two sides held a session of talks which dealt with developing cooperation between the two sisterly countries in the media field and in joint Arab media action.

Dr. Salman reiterated Syria's constant backing of Arab issues and its support for the fraternal Kuwaiti people during their crisis during the Iraqi invasion and the negative repercussions of this invasion on the overall Arab situation.

Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah praised the stand Syria adopted under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in support of Kuwait during its crisis. He called for strengthening media relations in all fields to serve the interests of the two brotherly peoples and of the Arab nation. He said that the amir, government, and people of Kuwait stand at the Syria's side in order to restore its full rights and to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

Meets Vice President Khaddam

JN1012211594 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Kuwaiti Information Minister Sa'id Nasir al-Sabah at 1930 today. The meeting was attended by Information Minister Muhammad Salman and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus. Talks centered on the Arab situation, the peace process, and relations between the two countries.

Meets With al-Asad, Departs

JN1212174794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah at 1330 today. Information Minister Muhammad Salman and Kuwaiti Ambassador in Damascus Ibrahim al-Musa attended.

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The Kuwaiti minister conveyed to his excellency the president the greetings of Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and Kuwaiti Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah. His excellency the president asked the Kuwaiti minister to convey his greetings and best wishes to his highness the amir, his highness the heir apparent, and the fraternal Kuwaiti people.

Talks during the meeting centered on the brotherly relations between Syria and Kuwait, the situation in the region, and Arab relations.

Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah left Damascus this evening after a three-day visit to Syria. [passage omitted]

A media cooperation program between the Kuwaiti and Syrian Information Ministries for the years 1995 and 1996 was signed at the Information Ministry this morning. The program was signed for Syria by Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman and for Kuwait by Kuwaiti Information Minister Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah. Salman and al-Sabah then exchanged cordial speeches, expressing the existing strong brotherly relations and cooperation between the two countries. They asserted that the signing of the program came at the instructions of the two countries' leaders—His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah—in order to bolster media cooperation between the two countries and their media institutions, to achieve an overall progress in both countries, and to serve the Arab causes.

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Bangladesh

Court Stays Decision on Opposition Boycott

BK1312022994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Bangladesh Supreme High Court has stayed the operation of the High Court judgment directing the opposition to attend Parliament. The stay was granted on leave petitions filed by the three major opposition parties—Awami League, Jatiya Party, and Jamaat-e-Islami. It may be also recalled that the opposition have threatened to resign en masse on the 28th of this month from Parliament if its demand for a caretaker government is not accepted.

Sheikh Hasina Urges Ouster of 'Tyrannical Rulers'

BK1412125294 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 6 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The president of the Bangladesh Awami League and leader of opposition in the parliament, Sheikh Hasina, in a statement issued on the occasion of the observance of Democracy Day today [6 December] said that I, along with the people of the country, pay deep respect and gratitude to those who participated in the long struggle against autocracy and sacrificed their lives to free our motherland from the shackles of autocratic rule. She also prayed for the salvation of their departed souls. The opposition leader said that in the election held after the fall of autocracy on this day in the year 1990, the BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] received the opportunity to form the government. She added that the people of the country have now become stunned by their [BNP's] misrule. As a result, a new despotic regime has replaced the ousted autocratic rule.

Sheikh Hasina alleged that during the past three years and nine months, the ruling party indulged in terrorism in the by-elections to the parliament and elections to city corporations. They have killed voters, indulged in rape, and rigged the elections with a view to win at any cost. These activities have terrorized the whole nation. She said on this occasion of the observance of Democracy Day, which marks the fall of autocracy. She said that I appeal to all, irrespective of party affiliation, to join the ongoing movement to realize the demand for the holding of elections to the parliament under a neutral and nonpartisan caretaker government with a view to establish democracy and rule of law in the country, to restore the voting rights of the people, and to ensure their right to food. She added that, God willing, the movement of the people will be successful.

A rally of former student leaders of the Chhatra League [student front of the Awami League] was held yesterday evening at the 29 Minto Road residence of the opposition leader. It was attended, among others, by former central leaders of the Chhatra League, former district-level presidents and general secretaries of the organization, and former vice presidents and general secretaries of the student unions of the Chhatra League in the universities and colleges. Sheikh Hasina, the Awami League president and opposition leader, was the chief guest at this rally of former student leaders. The rally was presided over by Obaidul Kader and was addressed by central leaders of the Awami League including Abdul Mannan, Zillur Rahman, Amir Hossain Amu, and Abdur Razzak, MP. The rally was conducted by Abdul Mannan.

Addressing the rally as chief guest, Sheikh Hasina said that the time has come for all to launch an united movement to free the nation from the clutches of corrupt and tyrannical rulers. She called upon the former leaders of the Chhatra League to use their skill, efficiency, and talent in creating consciousness among the people with a view to lead the current movement to its desired objective. Among the former student leaders who addressed the rally were Momtaz Hossain, Dr. Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, K.M. Jehangir, Fazlur Rahman, Sultan Mohammad Monsur Ahmed, Mukul Bose, Ismat Kadir Gama, Jehangir Kabir Nanak, S.M. Kamal Hossain, Nurul Amin Ruhul, Kamaruzzaman Ansari, Moinuddin Hasan Chowdhury, and Iqbalur Rahim. Several thousand former leaders of the Chhatra League from Dhaka and other districts attended the rally. [passage omitted]

Commentary Details Japanese Economic Assistance

BK1312133494 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 12 Dec 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Japanese Embassy and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA, have jointly organized a visit by print journalists to the various projects being implemented with Japanese assistance in Bangladesh. This visit, arranged on the occasion of the 20th founding anniversary of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, aims at apprising the media about the activities of this organization in Bangladesh. Japan is one of the leading countries providing development assistance to Bangladesh. Economic cooperation between the two countries has been gradually increasing and expanding since the independence of Bangladesh. Japan is providing economic and technical assistance in different sectors of the economy. Since independence, the grants and assistance provided by Japan is estimated at $5 billion. Japanese cooperation in the development of the communication network of Bangladesh merits special mention. Japan has provided financial assistance for a large number of bridge projects in the country including the Meghna Bridge and the Meghna-Gumti Bridge. It is providing assistance of $200 million for the Jamuna multipurpose bridge project, currently under construction. Japan has also presented proposals for rendering assistance for several other bridge projects.

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A model rural development project is being implemented with the technical assistance of Japan in Daudkandi and Homna police stations of Comilla District. In recent years, Japanese development assistance has expanded in different spheres of the economy. Japanese cooperation for infrastructural development, agriculture, communications, and the industrial sector deserve mention. The liberal assistance provided by Japan is utilized in the process of industrialization and human resource development in Bangladesh. This continuous development assistance in the social and infrastructural development is further strengthening the bilateral friendly relations between Japan and Bangladesh.

It may be mentioned that Japan is the second largest economic power in the world. For this the developing countries of Asia have legitimate reasons to feel proud of Japan. It is providing economic cooperation to the developing countries of Asia. Japan is committed to increasing its economic cooperation in the developing countries of Asia. Japan has recently announced that it will expand its overseas economic cooperation programs. This announcement will undoubtedly encourage Bangladesh and the other developing countries of Asia. Bangladesh has taken all the necessary measures for full and proper implementation of Japanese assistance for its economic development. The liberal economic policy of Bangladesh, its economic and financial reform measures, and above all its free market system have brightened the prospects of Japanese assistance and investment in the country.

It may be mentioned that the four-day Bangladesh-Japan annual bilateral economic review meeting was held in Dhaka at the end of last month. This four-day meeting included detailed discussions on various aspects of the policy and the financial and technical assistance provided by the Japanese Overseas Development Corporation. It also discussed other bilateral matters. This meeting was attended by a 15-member high-level Japanese delegation. The Japanese delegation was comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of International Trade, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Economy, and Ministry of Construction. The Japanese delegation lauded the control of the inflation rate in Bangladesh, its macroeconomics management, and the positive developments in other sectors. During talks with the concerned authorities in Bangladesh, the delegation held detailed discussions on economic and trade cooperation.

Implementation of various projects with Japanese cooperation in Bangladesh is proceeding satisfactorily. Bangladesh has laid special emphasis on speedy and effective use of Japanese cooperation in various projects. If the press is throughly informed about the projects being implemented in Bangladesh with the assistance provided by Japan International Cooperation Agency, their report in this regard will further strengthen the understanding between the people of Bangladesh and Japan. The visit of the journalists to the projects being implemented will help in the continuing the pace of the gradually increasing Japanese cooperation in the economic development of Bangladesh.

India

Commentary Considers Wisner Remarks on Kashmir

BK1312035494 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 6 Dec 94 p 9

[Commentary by K.P. Nayar: "One Step Raphel, One Step Wisner"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States has institutionalised its ambiguity over Jammu and Kashmir. In a speech in Washington last week, US ambassador to India Frank Wisner regretted that India's plans to hold elections in Kashmir had not found favour with Pakistan.

On the face of it, Mr Wisner's public statement is at sharp variance with what the US assistant secretary of state for South Asia, Robin Raphel, told her interlocutors during her last visit to New Delhi. At that time, she had just stopped short of questioning the legitimacy of any elections that India was planning to hold in Kashmir under the present circumstances.

By all accounts, there has been a shift in the assistant secretary's views on Kashmir after her recent visits to Pakistan and Russia. Those who have been talking to Ms Raphel after her return from Islamabad and Moscow report that the assistant secretary is keen to see that elections are not held in the troubled northern state at this juncture.

Notwithstanding how most Indians feel about Ms Raphel, there is considerable logic in her argument, but only from Washington's point of view. The US, Ms Raphel has been saying in private since her return from Islamabad, is now actively trying to persuade Pakistan to look for a solution in Kashmir that excludes the idea of a plebiscite.

If India was to hold elections in Kashmir at this stage and tell the world that these elections had given legitimacy for its control over the State, she fears that the US initiative to find a long-term solution to the Kashmir problem would be derailed even before it has got moving.

And that is not all. Ms Raphel believes—and all sections of the Clinton administration share this view—that Benazir Bhutto is the best choice in Islamabad under the present circumstances.

It is Ms Bhutto who has been standing up to Islamic fundamentalists and she is someone the US can consider as a frontline ally in its fight against religious extremism, the assistant secretary has been telling doubters.

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The Pakistani Prime Minister's position would be considerably weakened if India was to go ahead with elections in Kashmir and that is not in anyone's interest, runs Ms Raphel's logic.

Viewed against this background, Mr Wisner's hopes for democracy in Kashmir, expressed at the Meridian International Centre in Washington, acquires a curious dimension.

American diplomacy in the sub-continent has traditionally thrived on its ambiguity over the Indo-Pakistan dispute. Whenever the US has cast aside its ambiguity—as it happened during the early months of Ms Raphel's assistant secretaryship—it has forfeited its ability to play any role in the affairs of South Asia.

Last weekend, the reaction in New Delhi to Mr Wisner's statement has been to applaud it as an expression of support for India's electoral plans in Kashmir. It merely restores the balance after Ms Raphel's visits to New Delhi, Islamabad and Moscow and reasserts the ambiguity over Kashmir that Washington has fine-tuned during the last three decades.

From India's point of view, Mr Wisner's speech is perhaps more important for what it says between the lines. The proposed elections in Kashmir, the ambassador argued, are "important not so much for what it accomplishes, but because it opens the way to political negotiations between Kashmir and the Indian Union."

There are many people in India, both within the government and outside, who believe that the elections will solve all the problems in Kashmir. Mr Wisner has sent a message that there is much more to be done after the elections and that India should not see the restoration of popular rule in Srinagar as an end in itself.

It has not been entirely lost on the Indian government that the ambassador said all that he did in Washington. Had he said all this in India, questions would immediately have been raised on a host of issues which Mr Wisner would have found difficult to answer without casting aside Washington's veil of ambiguity over Kashmir.

He has now ensured that the message which the Clinton administration wanted to convey on Kashmir would have got through to South Block by the time he meets his interlocutors in the Ministry of External Affairs.

It is a measure of Mr Wisner's success as a diplomat in New Delhi that no questions have been raised in India about his assertion that elections in the strife-torn northern state "opens the way to political negotiations between Kashmir and the Indian Union."

It has shades of the Ms Raphel's infamous statement questioning the accession of Kashmir to India. Had Ms Raphel said what Mr Wisner did in Washington last week, the stage would have been set for an uproar over Indo-US relations in Parliament on its opening day of the winter session.

By choosing Mr Wisner to talk about what Washington sees as the post-election agenda in Kashmir, the Clinton administration has shown the realisation that in dealing with India, the messenger is as important as the message that it wants to convey.

It is vital that South Block takes up these questions with the US envoy at the earliest opportunity instead of glossing over them in its desire to preserve the atmosphere of bonhomie which Mr Wisner has built up in his dealings with the Indian government in an altogether short time.

Mr Wisner has also raised other issues on which the Indian government owes an answer to its people. He told his Washington audience, for instance, that India is prepared for a "different dispensation" in Kashmir than in the past.

Indians have a right to know what India has conceded in its negotiations with the US which makes the ambassador assert that India's relations with Kashmir will be different from what it were before: so much so that the Clinton administration sees in the change the "first glimmer of hope."

Latest Round of Tension in Kashmir Region Reported

Pakistani Troops Fire 7 Rockets

BK1212163694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has said that Pakistan would never succeed in the game plan to annex Kashmir, even through terrorism. Addressing a function in Jammu after inaugurating the state's first hostel for tribal Gujjar Bakherwal girls in Jammu today, he said Pakistan of late has been sending Afghan and other foreign mercenaries in Kashmir after finding it difficult to induct more Kashmiri youths into militancy. He said the security forces are competent enough to deal with the foreign mercenaries in the same manner as they did with the other militants.

Pakistani troops fired seven rockets from across the Line of Control in Punch sector in Jammu and Kashmir this morning. Two rockets fell on Sheesh Mahal Mohalla of the town, two near the UN office and three rockets felled in the nearby Betar Nallah. No report of any damage has been received. About 380 rockets were fired by Pakistani troops from across the Line of Control this year in Punch and Rajauri sectors.

'Rocket Attacks' Said to Damage Mosque

BK1412050494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, several leaders and organizations have condemned Pakistani rocket attacks on a mosque in (Dighwar) village

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and civilian areas in Punch. Out of the 12 rockets fired by the Pakistani troops in the Punch Sector during the last two days, one rocket fell on a mosque, causing heavy damage. Two rockets fell on Punch town and two near the UN office. Pakistani troops have fired 385 rockets in the Punch and Rajaori sectors during the last few months.

Security Breaks Up Srinigar March

BK1012144994 Hong Kong AFP in English 1401 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Dec 10 (AFP)—More than 24 Kashmiri Moslems were injured here Saturday [10 December] when club-wielding Indian security forces broke up protest marches called to mark International Human Rights Day, witnesses said.

Among the injured was Yasin Malik, president of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), which is seeking independence for Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state, the witnesses said.

Malik was leading some 300 demonstrators to the UN Military Observers Group headquarters here when police and paramilitary troops began lobbing tear gas shells, firing into the air and clubbing protestors, the witnesses said.

Malik, who is in frail health, was led away to a police station bleeding from the nose and head, they said. Twelve others were injured in the military action which provoked the crowd to throw stones at policemen, injuring three.

Malik later became unconscious after being severely beaten by a paramilitary trooper near the UN office, witnesses said. He was released in the evening after a brief arrest, the Press Trust of India said.

A number of demonstrators shouted anti-Indian slogans and "We want freedom" as they were shoved into vehicles belonging to the security forces and driven away. "India stop human rights violations in Kashmir," they shouted.

The JKLF president had planned to present a memorandum condemning human rights violations in Kashmir to the UN observers, who have an office here to monitor the uneasy truce along the Indo-Pakistani border.

The Moslem-majority Kashmir Valley was paralyzed meanwhile by a general strike called by Kashmiri Moslem separatist groups to protest human rights abuses by the Indian security forces.

Shops, offices, banks and post offices were closed and traffic was off the roads.

Some 10 other Kashmiri demonstrators were injured in similar action by security troops who beat back other marches to the UN office, residents said. The protestors included lawyers, college students and women.

Police took down black flags hoisted atop government buildings and banners denouncing alleged rights abuses in Kashmir. A group of veiled Moslem women put up a placard outside an office which read: "Help the world as we are being massacred."

More than 10,000 people have died in Kashmir since the Moslem separatist struggle turned violent in 1989.

Normalcy Restored to Sopor

BK1312051994 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, security forces have recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunition and incriminating documents from a mosque at Pachpora in Srinagar. A BSF [Border Security Force] spokesman said the mosque was being used as a hideout by the militants of Harakatul Ansar. The militants constructed bunkers in the mosque to fire upon the security forces.

Elsewhere in the valley, security forces have been able to restore normalcy in Sopor—once a militancy-hit town. A BSF spokesman said the militants operating in the town have either been killed or arrested. Our Srinagar correspondent, after visiting the town, reports that people in general are happy with this change as they were fed up with extortion, rapes, and other excesses committed by the militants.

Article Ponders 'Military Tension' in Subcontinent

BK1212143294 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 4 Dec 94 p 1,3

[Article by Ranjit Kumar: "Strategic Panorama—A Quiet Before Storm"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A tense peace prevails in the Indian subcontinent. It will not be an exaggeration to say that the situation remains under control due to India's exercise of restraint. Otherwise, in view of the the way Pakistan is waging an undeclared low-intensity war in Kashmir, it would not be inappropriate for any country to lose patience. India, however, is dealing with low-intensity war only at a local level.

As Pakistan is engaged in a low-intensity war in Kashmir, it is fearful that India might turn the tables on it by attacking it directly. To prevent India from doing this, Pakistan has not only confirmed that it possesses nuclear weapons, it is also purchasing M-11 missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads. Not only this, it has also made a noteworthy increase in its stockpile of conventional weapons. It has not only acquired more than a 100 F-7 aircraft from China in recent years, but it also wants to buy French Mirage-2000 and Russian Su-27 fighter planes. Earlier, it signed an agreement to purchase three

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quite sophisticated Augusta class submarines from France. It is also increasing the striking capability of its ground forces. Although Pakistan is one-fourth of India's size geographically and its population one-eighth of India's, its defense expenditure is half that of India's. In proportion, Pakistan's defense budget does not look logical from any angle. Pakistan fears only India, while India has to maintain its presence on the Chinese border as well. India, however, now feels strategically comfortable due to the improved relations with China which will allow it to use the troops posted on the Chinese border in an event of war with Pakistan. In spite of this, Pakistan is in position to confront India effectively as it has acquired the nuclear capability over the years and purchased missiles from China.

Pakistan's nuclear program is a reality and India does not want to see a nuclear conflagration in the subcontinent by starting a war. Pakistan understands this weakness of India, and at the same time it has created fear throughout the world that if the Kashmir controversy is not settled according to its wishes, the consequences will be nuclear war. Threatened by Pakistan's blackmail, the West is now indirectly asking India to bow to the terrorists in Kashmir, meaning India should let terrorism continue in Kashmir. They are not willing to admit publicly who started the terrorist fire in Kashmir and who is regularly adding fuel to this fire.

India has been forced to increase its military power to counter Pakistan's challenge in the form of its newly-acquired military might. The Indian subcontinent is witnessing a new phase of a new arms race. Thus, South Asia is passing through a tense era. A spark any time on the so-called root cause of tension—Kashmir—could assume the proportions of war as the armed forces of both countries directly confront each other in Kashmir. Due to India's patience, this spark has yet not started a fire and the western nations and United States want to see this status quo continue. The West will intervene before the situation reaches the point that the military tension becomes real war. Economic interests rather than strategic ones will force them to do so.

In fact, a plot to browbeat India on the issue of Kashmir has been implemented for the last four decades at the international level. It is on the pretext of Kashmir that India is coming under pressure to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and to renounce its missile program. This pressure has materialized because Pakistan has been successful in convincing the West that only acceding Kashmir to Pakistan will bring peace to South Asia, otherwise this region will become a turn into a cremation ground from nuclear war. The western countries present this as a stark reality and say that if a war breaks out in South Asia, it will be due to India's intransigence in not signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Pressure is being put on India to give up Kashmir. The West says that as India is violating human rights there, it has no right to Kashmir—as if the Pakistan Army is scattering rose petals while protecting the rights of muhajirs in Sind. No one, however, promotes the idea of independence for Sind as breaking up Pakistan will make India stronger. At the same time, secession of Kashmir will end India's emergence as a military power. The mockery of the situation is that even the Western efforts to eliminate the climate of military tension are not unbiased, but rather they are prejudiced. The United States and other western countries want peace in the region on the basis of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the Missile Technology Control Regime. It is imperative, however, for India to develop its self-defense capability as Pakistan has succeeded in fooling the West through its acquisition of nuclear weapons and missiles. Despite all the obstacles, India has the capability today to become a missile power. India cannot be deprived of this capability. That is why the West is advocating confidence-building measures between India and Pakistan.

Agency Seeks Asian Markets for MiG-29 Simulator

BK1212161094 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 4 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Indian Aeronautical Development Agency has built its own MiG-29 operations and maintainance simulator and defence officials are currently assessing its potential for export, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, where there is a growing demand for the fighter aircraft.

The simulator, installed in September this year, has put an end to the Indian Air Force's dependence on Russia for the equipment, according to Dr Kota Harinayana, director of the Bangalore-based agency.

"The potential for export has been found to be good, especially in countries like Malaysia and Indonesia, which have either acquired MiG-29s or will have them shortly," Dr Harinayana told THE ECONOMIC TIMES.

He, however, refused to divulge the cost of the project, saying that it might affect the expo plans. The Indian Air Force has recently trained a batch of Malaysian pilots at the Lohegaon airbase near Pune.

Dr Harinayana said the simulator can detect mechanical and other operational problems in MiG-29s through its advanced software systems.

Paper Views Pakistan's Purchase of PRC Missiles

BK1012131294 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 7 Dec 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Chinese Missiles for Pakistan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] That Pakistan is buying missiles from China has been in the news for many years. Although many Pakistani diplomats and leaders have admitted it in muted tones, since there has not yet been

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a formal declaration from the Islamabad, Western countries and the United States continue to give Pakistan the benefit of the doubt. The U.S. has never openly said that Pakistan had received missiles from China. On the contrary, it asserted that Pakistan had bought only some missiles parts from China. Although the U.S. did impose sanctions on China and Pakistan for two years, it proved only to be symbolical, and eventually, under pressure from the commercial lobby, it removed them completely.

However, Pakistan President Farooq Leghari, during his China visit boasted that Pakistan had bought missiles from China and that it did not need the prior permission of any third country to do this. By 'third country' Mr. Leghari means the U.S., the target of his sarcasm. Indirectly, he means to question the authority of the U.S. in meddling in Sino-Pakistan defense deals. The Pakistani president maintains that since the missiles bought from China do not violate the conditions of Missile Technology Control Regime, the dela is eminently proper. However, one of the conditions states specifically that no country can export missiles having 300-km or more strike range. Both Pakistan and China claim that the range of the M-11 missiles is 297 kms, and not 300 kms. Thus, both China and Pakistan attempt to ridicule the MTCR, while the U.S. as always, chooses to overlook the violation.

Together with the missiles, Pakistan has also admitted having a nuclear bomb. So, officially, Pakistan possesses missiles and nuclear bombs. Pakistan can hurl its nuclear bomb at India with the help of these missiles. Weapons experts claim that these missiles have a 500-km strike range that can be further extended, if needed. But pulling wool over the world's eye, Pakistan asserts that these missiles have only 297-km strike range, i.e. just three kms short of the MTCR limit. What great honor have both Pakistan and China shown to the MTCR! Ironically, overlooking Pakistan's blatant violations, India is being pressured not to deploy her Agni missiles even at the cost of her own national security. They say that if India does so, Pakistan would follow suit. However, Pakistan has already gone ahead, as Mr. Leghari himself has admitted. So, why can't the Indian leadership declare openly that we shall deploy these missile to safeguard our national interest because India has not only to guard its borders against dangers from the Pakistani but from the Chinese side as well?

Commentary Analyzes Benefits of Joining WTO

BK1412124294 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 14 Dec 94

[Commentary by S. Sethuraman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has decided to ratify the Uruguay Round agreements on the new multilateral trading system and the establishment of the World Trade Organization—WTO. This new world body will come into existence on 1 January 1995 with about 120 member countries, which are parties to the Uruguay round agreements. India's ratification was announced in the parliament by the Commerce Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherji, who said that participation in the multilateral trading system would be in the country's interests. India will, thus, become a founding member of WTO as it was of the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade—GATT—Since 1948. The GATT is now being replaced by the WTO, whose objectives have been given greater precision. These are: raising living standards and incomes, ensuring full employment, expanding production and trade, and sustainable development. WTO will also keep in view the need to ensure that developing countries secure a better share of growth in international trade. It will administer the elaborate framework of rules and disciplines governing trade evolved in seven years of protracted negotiations. The final outcome of the Uruguay Round reflects the balancing of interests of all countries—developed and the developing. Therefore, it will not be wholly satisfactory from the point of view of developing nations only.

Countries like India with an insignificant share of world trade regard multilateralism as the best guarantee of protecting their interests, instead of having to deal bilaterally with several countries and be subjected to pressures. In substance, the lowering of tariff and other market opening measures will contribute to an expansion of trade in goods. The secretariat of WTO estimates that the world income would rise by over 500 billion dollars by the year 2005 as a result of the Uruguay Round agreements on trade. One- fourth of this increase will be the likely share for developing economies. The export gains will be mostly in labor incentive products, including clothing, footwear, and furniture. Besides, trade in services, which is being brought for the first time within multilateral rules, will also benefit countries according to the nature of services they could provide, but this will have to be negotiated.

The Uruguay Round agreements had evoked considerable debate in India and strong reservations were voiced on certain aspects like guarantee of patents, farmers' right to seeds, and delayed liberalization for textiles. Mr. Mukherji had said that reductions in tariffs would enlarge trade flows and India's gain from additional exports could be 1.5 to 2 billion dollars per annum. Though somewhat disappointing, the agreement on textiles represents a definite timebound commitment on liberalization. The commerce minister has also made it clear repeatedly that support to agriculture in India and development policies remain unaffected and that there is no obligation to patent seeds and plant varieties. However, the present patent regime in India has to be changed to introduce a full product patent regime instead of only process patents. A 10-year transition period is available to developing countries for this change over. The Uruguay Round agreements mark a major step forward in improving rules governing trade policy instruments like anti-dumping measures. Also, the dispute settlement provisions safeguard the principle

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of one country one vote, representing a fundamental reform which had influenced countries to abide by the letter and spirit of the new trading rules. The government will introduce legislation in parliament to amend the patents act to bring it in line with the Uruguay Round agreement on protection of intellectual property right and another to safeguard the rights of farmers and researchers for seeds and plant varieties. Measures will also be taken to strengthen the anti-dumping laws so that domestic producers are not subjected to unfair competition.

Overall, subject to quality and price competitiveness in global market, India would stand to gain from the Uruguay Round agreements, but the world trading environment may not become fully conducive if attempts are made by powerful nations to raise barriers in the name of labor standards, environment and human rights. These are uncertainties which have to be faced and overcome.

Editorial: GATT an 'Ultimatum' to Industrialists

BK1312112094 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 12 Dec 94 p 6

[Editorial: "The GATT and the Prime Minister's Remorse"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Contradictions are always interesting and, at times, also quite ridiculous. In which class will we place the glaring contradiction which results from the cabinet's approval of the GATT agreement? On the one hand is the prime minister's open ultimatum to Indian industrialists and on the other is a limit to foreign investment in India, for which coming generations will never forgive us unless we recognize this limit. If one chooses to do so, one can interpret this contradiction as a classic example of double dealing. If viewed with sympathy, however, one can detect a dark shadow looming large on the prime minister's subconscious, which is urging Indian industrialists to speed up the process of industrialization in the country. The prime minister presented some engrossing statistics to support this view. For example, the Indian capital market has grown to such an extent that private companies and foreign institutional investors invested 250 billion rupees each in one year alone. Clearly there is no dearth of money. Then what is lacking? The prime minister also pointed this out. He said that foreign industrial organizations spend as much as 5 to 6 percent on research and development whereas in India this rate is only a measly 0.6 percent.

This means that we have been compelled to import modern technology, which is invariably a little older than the latest technology. Moreover, often it does not suit Indian conditions. To top all of this, the greatest deterrent is the fact that we cannot import more than a fixed limit. The inherent meaning is two fold: there is a limit to which we are allowed to import technology and there is a limit to which we can absorb technology. Who wouldn't develop sympathy for the prime minister seeing that he is standing on the cross roads at this critical phase and envisaging the reaction of coming generations?

This question also concerns the present generation. The pertinent question is why this most important GATT agreement, which threatens to alter our country's present and future by all means, has not been approved by parliament? Or why was a plebiscite of some type not conducted to determine the people's wishes? Why was the nation not asked its final opinion before accepting the GATT agreement? Was there any alternative to the GATT agreement? It, of course, would have been very difficult to elude the GATT agreement even if such doubts had been quelled, but the country would have known better the grave challenges with which it has to cope. The whole country's attention would have been riveted towards finding the means of national prosperity within the GATT framework. As he inaugurated the 67th annual convention of the Federation of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, was not the prime minister indirectly giving the message to Indian industrialists that they must vie resolutely with the foreign capital being invested in the country?

Government Decides To Ratify Agreement on WTO

BK0912150494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has decided to ratify the agreement on the establishment of the World Trade Organization [WTO]. Under the agreement reached during the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks the World Trade Organization will start functioning in Geneva from the first of next month. Announcing the government's decision in both houses of parliament today, the Commerce Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said India's continued participation in the multilateral trading system will be in the national interest. He hoped that WTO will reflect the changes in the pattern of global trade.

In the Rajya Sabha, the opposition members barring the Samajwadi Party and the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] staged a noisy walkout protesting against the announcement at the fag end of the day.

'Burgeoning' Imports Drive Trade Deficit Growth

BK1312041994 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 6 Dec 94 p 11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India's trade deficit went up to $1.39 billion in the first seven months of 1994-95, more than double the amount recorded in the same period last year as the country's export much advertised export thrust [as published] lagged behind a burgeoning import bill.

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However, the April-October trade deficit figure is less than half the corresponding figure for the financial year 1992-93 of $2.723 billion.

Imports grew at nearly 20 per cent compared to the same period last year reaching $15.2 billion, while exports lagged behind growing by just 12.1 per cent. Exports during April-October 1994 stood at $13.8 billion dollars.

A Commerce Ministry assessment of the impact of the plague which saw India's trade partners restricting certain imports from this country, claimed the effect had been "found to be insignificant".

However, Commerce Minister Pranab MukherJee had in November placed India's total export losses due to the plague first at about $1 billion approximately, later revising the figure to $600 million.

Exports during October 1994 are estimated at $2.20 billion, an increase of 26.9 per cent over October last year. October 1994 exports are the highest recorded this year. However imports during this month at $2.34 billion also grew by 29.7 per cent compared to October 1993.

The compound growth of exports during April-October 1994 over corresponding periods in 1992-93 and 1991-92 works out at 17.02 per cent and 13.24 per cent respectively.

The compound growth rates of imports during April-October 1994 over the same period in 1992-93 and 1991-92 are 8.96 per cent and 11.90 per cent, respectively.

Petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) imports during April-October 1994 are estimated at $3.14 billion against October $3.45 billion during the corresponding period in 1993-94. POL imports indicate a decline of 9.07 per cent, whlle non-oil imports show an increase of as much as 30.6 per cent.

Going by the overall growth outlook at 5.5 per cent and industrial recovery to seven-eight per cent, in real terms and 16 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively in nominal terms, the growth of exports and imports may both be considered not so responsive.

The elasticity assumed in the Eighth Plan for exports and imports is 2.4 and 1.5, respectively. Partly these trends are due to world trade prices being sluggish and relative prices being unfavourable for export, domestic demand picking up certain products.

Though point-to-point inflation continues around nine per cent and is stil higher considering the average for the review period, the policy for exchange rate stability has contributed to higher growth, in the second quarter, compared to the first quarter.

The growth rate could have been higher if the required support was given to major export items notably engineering goods in terms of alternatives to international price replenishment scheme, further flexibility of inputs for higher value added textiles and leather goods and release of pending payments in respect of a number of export items.

'Election Time Populism' Said To Affect Inflation

BK1312145494 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 8 Dec 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Disturbing Trend]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] No comfort can be drawn from the behaviour of the all-commodities wholesale price index. The latest figures show that the annual rate of inflation in the third week of November shot up to 9.43 per cent, a jump of 54 points on the previous week and disturbing confirmation of the upward trend in prices since late September. If the trend continues, as there is good reason to believe it will, the country will have returned to double-digit inflation before the year is out and the post-July dips in the indices which occasioned so much optimism in the Finance Ministry will have turned out to be no more than a momentary aberration. There is reason for concern in the fact that the price rise continues despite a generally good monsoon, despite the picking up of industrial production for the first time since the three-year old reform programme began and a somewhat greater degree of fiscal discipline. In that primary articles and manufactured products have both contributed in recent weeks to the rise in the WPI, interlocking increases in agricultural procurement prices, the money supply and industrial production costs are evidently stoking inflation. That being so, the price rise is not likely to be reversed in the immediate future.

Election time populism increases the possibility of an acceleration in the rate of inflation. If the Telegu Desam makes large strides in Andhra Pradesh; it will be next to impossible from now through the next round of Assembly polls and up to the 1996 general election to keep the lid on unproductive government expenditure. Given the unconscionable rise in prices of basic items of consumption in the last three years and the consequent loss of real income of poor people, the promise of rice at two rupees a kilo is bound to be a major determinant of voting decisions. While finding ameliorative measures for the harsh impact of inflation on the lowest income groups, the Government will be hard put to resist demands for various kinds of subsidies from other better-off sections of society. Giving in to those demands will fuel more inflation. To point out that unfettered populism will cause a serious setback to projected economic growth rates and leave everyone worse off in the long run is to state the obvious. But the obvious is not what politicians pay attention to when their seats are at stake. This will be a testing time for the Reserve Bank of India which has sought and ought to be given greater autonomy in making monetary policy.

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Editorial: Opposition Afraid To 'Strike' Government

BK1412070994 Delhi THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Dec 94 p 10

[Editorial: "Afraid To Strike"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There may be more to the opposition's decision not to move a no-confidence motion against the Narasimha Rao government than the stated reason. The opposition parties apparently do not want the Congress to close its ranks by threatening it with the parliamentary motion; instead. they would rather watch from the sidelines as the "infighting" in the ruling party intensifies over the reasons for the electoral setback. While this may be a valid reason, it is also possible that the opposition wants to take its own time to become accustomed to its sudden success. Indeed. The success itself can create problems for a party like the Janata Dal whose various state units have been functioning very much like autonomous entities. It is no secret, for instance, that there is no love lost between the party's Karnataka unit and the central leadership. In fact, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde has been very forthright in telling everyone that he specifically told the Janata Dal's "national" leaders to stay away from Kanataka, advice which they did not heed when it became clear that their party was on a winning streak. Since the difference between the two relates to their varying perceptions on the Mandal issue, it is possible that the Karnataka leaders, along with the equally self centred Mr Biju Patnaik, will now become more vocal against the V.P.-Singh-Sharad Yadav-Ram Vilas Paswan group.

So it is not the Congress alone which may see much infighting in the coming days. The factionalism in the Janata Dal is likely to get even worse if some of the Samta Party stalwarts try to return to the mother party, now that the latter's prospects have become brighter than before. Apart from the divisions within the Janata Dal, the opposition as a whole now comprises two distinct groups—the NF [National Front], LF [Left Front], and the BJP [Bharatiya Tanata Party]—which can no longer act together as in 1989. Mr L.K. Advani, of course, believes that such unity is no longer necessary because the Congress has ceased to be the dominant force which only a combined opposition could defeat. But such are the differences between the NF-LF and the BJP that the former may find itself agreeing more with the Congress on certain issues than with the upholders of the Hindutva [revival of Hinduism; in italics] concept. From this standpoint, the fragmentation within each party and group has never been quite as pronounced as at present. On the question of liberation, for instance, on which the Congress is expected to do some hard thinking, the BJP's Murli Manohar Joshi group may have more in common with Mr Narasimha Rao's detractors in the Congress than with Mr Advani's faction, which, in turn, will be closer in its views to the West Bengal CPM [Communist Party of India-Marxist] rather than the central Marxist leadership. A debate on a no-confidence motion, therefore, is likely to expose these chinks in the oppositions armour and provide some kind of respite to an otherwise beleagured Congress. Hence, perhaps, the decision to hold the fire. Clearly, the opposition is willing to wound, but afraid to strike.

Commentary: State Polls Do Not Affect National Policy

BK1312133594 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 13 Dec 94

[Commentary by K. C. Joglekar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Constitution of India is federal in character. It clearly demarcates the powers of the union government and of the constituent state units, but this has been provided in a way so that while the governments of the states are able to satisfy the aspirations of the people, the unity and integrity of the country, its external relations, and defense are looked after by the center [federal government]. The central government also coordinates activities in various spheres so that there is no imbalance in development in backward areas, and segments of society are given adequate help and guidance so that they do not lag behind, though the central government and the governments of the states are elected by the people. For nearly two decades after independence, the election to the Lok Sabha—the House of the People—in the center and to the state assemblies were held simultaneously after every five years, but this practice was later given up. Now the elections to the two are held separately.

Recently elections were held to the state assemblies of the southern states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, the assemblies of Goa on the west coast and the tiny state of Sikkim on the northeast border of the country. Free and fair elections have been a distinctive feature of Indian democracy. In the elections to the four assemblies, this was once again in evidence. In Andhra Pradesh, Telugu Desam, a regional party, was returned to power for the third time, displacing the Congress-I. The party represents the aspirations of the people of the state. In neighboring Karnataka, the voters returned the Janata Dal to power again, displacing the Congress-I. In Sikkim, a new political party, the Sikkim Democratic Front, has been voted to power. In Goa, the Congress-I emerged as the largest single party but could not secure an absolute majority. New governments have assumed office in these states. The parties which have come to power are committed to satisfy the demands of the people of their states, but having said this it needs to be pointed out that all these parties are committed to preserve the unity of India and cooperate with the government at the center. That is because though the Indian Constitution is federal in character and gives the states the necessary freedom to operate with the spheres of activity earmarked for them, at the national level the Constitution provides the center with enough powers to ensure that there is coordination in the development activities.

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In the main responsibility of the central government—the defense of the country and preserving its unity and integrity, the state governments, whatever their political complexion, have always given the central government full support. This is not the first time that the electorate has voted to power in the states a different party from the one in power at the center. Cases of conflict have been far and few in the last 47 years. This is because though the Constitution of India was framed by members elected by the then provincial assemblies, they looked upon themselves as representatives of the Indian people. The spirit of looking at national problems in a way free from regional or parochial considerations still motivates all political parties—old and new. Secondly, there is the innate wisdom of the Indian electorate. The voter may be unlettered, but he exercises a shrewd common sense, while exercising his right to vote. At the state level, he often chooses parties which he feels will be better able to meet his aspirations, but when it comes to voting a party to power at the center, the Indian voters is guided not by regional consideration, but by one yardstick. He votes the party to power at the center which he thinks can provide a stable government and protects the unity and integrity of the country.

New Andhra Pradesh Chief To Seek Government Aid

BK1412020594 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Andhra Pradesh is to seek central assistance to compensate the state's revenue losses to be incurred while implementing the election promises by the newly elected Telugu Desam government. The state's chief minister, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, disclosed this when he met newspersons in the capital this afternoon. He said there would be sizable losses to the state's exchequer in redeeming the twin promises—prohibition and rice at two rupees a kg. Mr. Rao said the matter came up during his meeting with the prime minister, Narasimha Rao, today, which he described as courtesy call.

On the size of his cabinet, Mr. Rama Rao said he would be expanding it shortly and allocate the portfolios. Asked about his role in national politics, Mr. Rama Rao said he has resigned as chairman of the National Front but his resignation has not been accepted.

Mr. Rao earlier met the prime minister. Both the leaders said they will work in a cooperative spirit.

Ministerial Disagreement Affects Manipur Government

BK1312145094 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 8 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Ashwini Sarin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi—The continuing row between the Union Home Minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, and his Minister of State, Mr Rajesh Pilot, has put the Union Government in a tight spot.

As the two ministers are not on talking terms, the Government may be forced to do something it would like to avoid at all costs—the revival of the Manipur assembly, where the Congress-led government was dismissed for failure to maintain law and order on January 1.

The second six-month spell of President's rule ends on December 31 and the Government will find it difficult to extend it beyond one year without a Constitutional amendment. Congress circles are sceptical that the Government would be able manage an amendment in view of the attitude of other parties and Congress' strength in both Houses of Parliament, particularly the Upper House.

Within the Congress, a move is afoot for revival of the assembly, whose term is scheduled to end on February 28. However, what is bugging the party leadership is the prospect of elections in the event of the revival and installation of a Congress-led government.

The problems are many even if the Government decides to go for revival of the assembly. Congress circles feel that managing an amendment to seek extension of Central rule in the brief two-week session will be an extremely difficult task in view of the 'hostile' attitude of other parties.

And to cap it all, there is the Chief Election Commissioner, Mr T.N. Seshan's order that he will not permit holding of elections in any state without photo identity cards [I-cards] for voters. In Manipur the process has not even started although one district Thoubal, had introduced a multi-purpose card for land records and ration some months ago. That scheme was forwarded to the Home Ministry for instructions but the ministry failed to respond.

With a 33-day notice required for holding elections, it will be an impossible feat if the new government is be able to finish the process of I-cards in the state where one-third of the 20 lakh population lives in inaccessible hill areas.

The ticklish situation in which the Government has been put is being attributed to the on-going tiff between Mr Chavan and Mr Pilot. Home Ministry sources said officials dealing with states under the President's rule had done their spade work but nothing moved in time since the two did not have time to attend to the ministry's official work due to their differences.

Ministry officials owing allegiance to Mr Chavan blame Mr Pilot for this confusion. "As the matter of states under President's rule falls under the purview of Mr Pilot as per the allocation of business of the ministry, it was his responsibility to inform the Home Minister," an officer said. "But how can this be done when they are not even on talking terms? We have not seen them together at any meeting for nearly six months now."

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Iran

President Announces Budget for Next Year

LD1312150094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today presented the country's budget bill for 1374 [year beginning 21 March 1995] to the Majles. According to our correspondent, before presenting next year's budget bill, the president reviewed the achievements of the first Five-Year Development Plan and described the general aims and directions of the government's programs for next year [beginning 21 March 1995].

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that among the features of the Second Development Plan were: More public participation in economic, social, and cultural affairs; more attention paid to the affairs of the youth and the implementation of economic stabilization policies for the long-term control of inflation.

The president next described the economic indicators and the growth in GDP since 1367 [year beginning March 1989]. He said: During the implementation of the first plan, the GDP which was approximately 197,000 rials, at a fixed price, increased very fast and reached 246,000 rials in 1372 [year beginning March 93]. This figure shows that the country has become wealthier.

Elsewhere in his speech, the president rejected as baseless some claims that the production and supply of non-essential consumer goods has increased in the country. He said: During the first plan, the share of intermediary and investment goods in the country's total imports increased, whereas, compared to the allocation of a substantial sum drawn from the country's foreign currency reserves to secure essential needs, the share of non-essential goods in the country's total imports has indeed dropped.

He added: During the first plan, the equivalent of $10 billion was allocated, in total, to the provision of essential goods and figures show that in the current year [as heard], during the implementation of the first plan, the import of non-essential consumer goods was controlled more than ever before. The propaganda of some uninformed individuals concerning increases in non-essential consumer goods imports is totally baseless.

The changes brought about in the composition of the country's imports demonstrate that the country's foreign currency reserves have been better used to strengthen productive institutions and implement infrastructural projects in the country.

The president also pointed to the government's efforts to establish social justice, saying: Existing data indicate that during the implementation of the first plan, the distribution of income and welfare facilities in society were more just than before and there has been an increase in the welfare benefits of households. He added: For instance, in 1367, the equivalent of 8.9 percent from the total expenditures of government welfare allowances for urban households was allocated to 30 percent of the lowest income group and 59.8 percent of it to 30 percent of the lowest income groups. These figures changed in 1372 to 11.4 percent and 57.7 percent respectively, showing that the share of the lowest income groups has improved in terms of income, whereas that of the higher groups has fallen.

Regarding the mining activities of the country during the first plan, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: In promoting the country's first plan, we needed millions of imported tonnes of steel, metals and petrochemical products. But today, in the wake of the successful implementation of the first plan, we are witness to Iran's substantial presence in world metal markets and mineral and chemical by-products.

Regarding the government's housing plans, the president said: In the past few years the government has supported the building of houses which have a foundation of less than 100 square meters, and it has directed its housebuilding subsidies toward the low-income strata. It is expected that the continuation of this policy will create a fundamental change in the housing sector. In keeping with this, about 290,000 sheltered and communal houses will be under construction next year with credit from government and the people's investments. In order to assist with providing houses for about 500,000 state employees who are married and homeless, it has been envisaged that by assisting the Housing Bank's reserves and drawing on the savings of annually-paid employees, about 100,000 households of state employees should receive special bank loans to either purchase or build suitable houses.

Regarding the creation of welfare facilities for various strata of society, the president said: In general, information available speaks of the fact that during the first plan, society's use of goods and services increased and the distribution of the essential goods of society was in favor of the low-income strata.

Those who use certain existing problems of the country—that have deep and recognized historical roots—as a political investment for themselves and use them to strengthen their own positions, should take note of this point: it is much simpler for the state to create a flourishing consumer society than striving toward development. The state has chosen the second way because it thinks about providing for the future of the nation. Currently, to continue the creation of new capacities and the trend of development of each country, requires changes and the toleration of hardship. On this path, all those of goodwill who care about the future of the country, should cooperate in easing the path; or else, the opportunity that exists to build the country fundamentally will be lost, just as other opportunities were lost in the past.

The president announced that in next year's budget, 3.1 trillion rials [R]will be paid in direct subsidies for

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essential goods to support the campaign against overpricing and the distribution of essential goods. On the specific features of 1374's budget, he said:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] The country's total budget for the year 1374 comes to R95.2694 trillion, nearly R100 trillion. Compared with 1373's approved budget, it shows a growth of 36.5 percent. This is our total budget, not including the budget of state-owned companies. The country's total budget has shown an increase of 36.5 percent.

A sum of R41.4157 trillion from the total budget of the country has been allocated to the general budget of the government. Compared to the sum approved for the current year, there is an increase of 38.8 percent. The reason for this large increase will become clear in the next passages. This is a large increase.

The specific income [daramad-e ekhtesasi] of next year's budget is estimated at R3.7606 trillion, which shows an increase of 66.8 percent compared with 1373. Yes, the specific income has a large increase. [end recording]

The government's general budget is R41.4157 trillion. The budget of state-owned companies, state-linked profit-making institutions, and banks is R64.585 trillion—an increase of 42 percent.

In his speech, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized that the principle objective in formulating the government's general budget next year was maintaining the level of government borrowing from the banks, which is zero, and he said that income of next year's budget will be R41,000,165,700,000.

According to the president, the total sum available to development next year will be R14,000,569,100,000.

Finance Minister Reports on Industrial Growth

LD1312220894 Tehran IRNA in English 2035 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 13, IRNA—Minister of Finance and Economy Morteza Mohammad-Khani here Tuesday [13 December] said that share of industrial sector in gross national products (GNP) was 7 percent in the first Five-Year Economic Development Plan.

Mohammad-Khani said the figure showed a two-fold rise by the end of last year (March 21, 1993-March 20, 1994) and expressed hope that it would rise by 35 percent by the next five years. The minister said that government's main policies in the second five-year economic development plan were based on increasing production. He added that government economic policies in the second plan would be controlling policies and that government's policy in checking price of goods was in the same direction.

Mohammad-Khani said that government by its market balancing policy and offering abundant goods to the market was to prevent profiteers from being involved in distribution of basic commodities, thus enabling social middle class to have access to them. He expressed hope that the country would develop if officials and people followed general guidelines well devised by the leader of the revolution for the country's development, including social discipline, increase in output, frugality and work ethics.

Non-Oil Goods Said to Increase to $27 Billion

LD1312181294 Tehran IRNA in English 1537 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 13, IRNA—The government is determined to increase the value of its non-oil exports during the Second Five Year Development Plan to dlrs. 27 billion through a proper planning, Deputy Commerce Minister 'Ali Saeed-Lu [name as received] said here Tuesday [13 December].

The target figure will hit a 230 percent increase in terms of value compared to the total non-oil commodities exported in the course of the First Five Year Plan, he said during the opening ceremony of an exhibition of chandeliers, decorative bulbs and furniture.

Saeed-Lu, also head of the Export Promotion Center of Iran, said that last year preparations were made to increase the capacity of Iranian factories to produce additional products worth dlrs. 30 billion.

In the First Development Plan, export of non-oil goods totalled dlrs 11.7 billion which was 34 percent less than the target figure of dlrs 17.6 billion, he said.

Saeed-Lu said that export of manufactured commodities since March 21 this year has fetched the country dlrs. 665 million, indicating a 15 percent increase compared to the corresponding period last year.

Details of Aid to Regions Hit by Natural Disasters

LD1312215794 Tehran IRNA in English 2055 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 13, IRNA—Over rls. 1,580 billion was spent for reconstruction and renovation of regions torn by natural disasters in the first Five-Year Economic Development Plan, Deputy Interior Minister for Development Affairs Rasul Zargar announced here Tuesday [13 December].

Zargar said that over rls. 700 billion out of the total figure had been spent merely for reconstruction and renovation of public sectors, including residential, agricultural and commercial units. He added that his ministry had established 180,515 residential units, repairing over 144,560 homes within the period.

Zargar put the total number of projects implemented by the Interior Ministry in the first plan at 11,000 and said

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that of the total 1,514 were preventive ones, the implementation of which both in rural and urban areas had cost over rls. 212 billion in credits.

As for measures adopted by his ministry over the first three quarters of current Iranian year (March 21 onwards), Zargar said that over rls. 310 billion in credit had been allocated for reconstruction of 36,255 residential units, of which 23,974 had become habitable.

He added that a total of 3,685 infrastructural projects, including 285 educational projects, 459 bridges, 469 barrages, 370 embankments and 158 governmental projects in urban and rural areas, were under implementation since March 21.

The official concluded that his ministry was busy implementing 450 preventive projects for which a credit of over rls. 40 billion had been allocated.

ECO Head Stresses Regional Cooperation

LD1312175194 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 13, IRNA—Secretary-General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Shemshad Ahmad Khan said during the past few years, not only the regional situation but the global situation has changed drastically and all these developments have given a new depth and a new dimension to regional cooperation.

Speaking to the English-language IRAN NEWS correspondent in Dar-el-Beida, Ahmad Khan added, there is a consensus that in order to bring ECO in conformity with the new realities of today, "it is necessary that we should have a new definition of its goals and objectives and there should be rationalization of its structural and operational methodology."

"So now we have to work on the basis of direct vision of these new realities and want to raise our organization in a manner so that it cannot only address itself to the realities of today but also cope with the challenges of tomorrow," he said.

Availing itself of the opportunity provided by the summit conference of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] in Dar-el-Beida, the ECO Council of Ministers held a meeting chaired by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the paper wrote.

The meeting reviewed the progress on the activities of ECO so far and preparation of the upcoming events, that is the fifth regular session of the Council of Ministers to be held in Ashkhabad [Ashgabat] and the third ECO summit to be held in Pakistan in March next year, the paper reported.

It quoted Ahmad Khan as saying that the ministers discussed the question of implementing four major regional institutions, that is the establishment of an ECO trade and development bank, ECO reinsurance company, ECO shipping company and ECO airlines.

On the idea of setting up an Islamic common market, the ECO secretary-general said such a market was undoubtedly a necessity for the Muslim world, but he said it was and should be the concern of the OIC because "the OIC is a kind of official spokesman for the Muslim ummah and they have to take necessary and concrete steps towards establishment of an Islamic common market."

He noted that ECO was doing its best towards creation of conditions which would promote mutual trade, not only within the region, but with the entire outside world, including the Muslim and non-Muslim world.

"We are looking in all directions, being purely an economic organization," he remarked adding that, we are keen to establish economic relations with ASEAN, European Community and every country or group of countries ready to work with ECO on the basis of mutual benefit, " Ahmad Khan concluded.

Envoy to UN Defends Tehran's Human Rights Record

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Dec. 14, IRNA—Iran's representative to the United Nations Hoseyn Rezvani here Tuesday [13 December] said that exploitation of human rights for political ends and ulterior motives still supersedes the genuine efforts for the cause of human rights and its promotion and protection at large.

Speaking at the third committee of the 49th session of the U.N. General Assembly, the representative regretted that once again the committee was about to consider a non-objective, selective and highly political text, drafted by the traditional co-sponsors on the question of human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran. "A resolution coined in spirit of dramatization and distortion of the actual situation and state of affairs in my country." [sentence as received]

He noted that having contained an exaggerated and summarized version of the special representative report, the draft resolution suffered not only from the deficiencies such as partiality and non-objectivity of the report itself, but it also contained erroneous elements and strong words artificially and repeatedly injected to the text by the co-sponsors to picture a deteriorated situation.

This is yet another marked departure on the side of the co-sponsors from the sacrosanct principle of objectivity, non-politicization and non-selectivity.

Referring to the so-called continuing threats to the life of apostate Salman Rushdie, Rezvani said that a disturbing question which comes to mind of any impartial observer is that on what ground has the distinguished co-sponsors

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of the draft have decided to totally ignore the most precious right of all that is the right to life of hundreds of Muslims who have been killed as a direct consequence of blasphemy committed by Salman Rushdie, an intolerable insult against Islam as a great divine religion and its venerated figures.

It has been attempted in vain to solemnly attribute in a strenuous manner the question of Salman Rushdie and threats to his life to the Islamic Republic of Iran while the co-sponsors themselves were well aware of the fact that this was the concern of the Islamic world as a whole, the representative continued.

"Following exactly the pattern of special representative, the drafter of resolution have not bothered to either consult or entertain the views and replies of the competent authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the content of the draft, disregarding totally the principle of impartiality", he stressed.

He further noted that the draft observation on the subject of women where it so bluntly referred so-called wide spread discrimination against women was far from being objective and was poisonously worded.

"The equality of women before law, their right to work, their active participation in political, social and cultural spheres have been guaranteed in our Constitution," Rezvani said adding that, the government is bound to do its utmost towards securing the multifarious rights of all citizens both women and men and providing legal protection for all as well as ensuring the equality of all before the law.

"Women in Iran are active in social and political life of the country and have high profiles in the official governmental positions," he noted, adding,"the most notable are: nine members of parliament, advisor to the president on women's affairs, advisor to the ministers of interior, health, higher education and labor, advisor to the head of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, a number of director-generals in government ministries as well as many executives in the public and private sector."

"Women in Iran are among the leading universities students in engineering and medicine, the majority of teachers are women who are very active in education", Rezvani stressed.

He concluded by saying, "My delegation will vote against the resolution and would call upon to all other distinguished colleagues to do the same, and to manifest their firm will to stand up against the unhealthy trend of manipulation and exploitation of human rights by a few".

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